

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Musicians
rock the
Vote for Change**

Page 10

Bruce Springsteen



**Two 1st Cav soldiers
earn Silver Stars
for Sadr City heroics**

Page 4

**Suzuki swings
his way into
record books**

Back page

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki



Volume 2, No. 176 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2004

Samarra locals asked for help from military

Page 3

Children display fragments of a car bomb that exploded Saturday targeting a U.S. Marine convoy near Karmah, nine miles east of Fallujah, Iraq. One Marine was injured in the explosion.



Violence picks up in Iraq

Page 3

Iraqi police officers Saturday look at a cache of weapons recovered from insurgents in Qurna, 50 miles north of Basra.



Women mourn as a coffin carrying the body of a child is taken for burial in Baghdad on Friday. A string of bombs killed 35 children as U.S. troops handed out candy Thursday at a government-sponsored celebration to inaugurate a new sewage plant.



Local residents look at a crater caused by an overnight U.S. airstrike in Sadr City in Baghdad on Saturday. No reports of casualties were available.

AP photos

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar
giving you up-to-date
daily news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at
49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email
iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Donaldson ranch killings: A 14-year-old boy accused of killing his family on newsmen Sam Donaldson's ranch in New Mexico will be tried in children's court, a judge has ruled.

Cody Posey, 14, is charged with fatally shooting his stepister, his stepmother and his father, who managed Donaldson's Chavez Canyon Ranch.

The teenager still could be subject to adult penalties if convicted, District Attorney Scott Key said. Prosecutors have filed a notice in court to preserve the option of seeking an adult sentence.

Posey's relatives say he suffered years of verbal and physical abuse. Posey told police he shot his family after his father slapped him for not cleaning horse stalls fast enough, according to an affidavit.

Nader ballot quest: The Arkansas Supreme Court on Friday granted independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader a place on Arkansas' ballot for the Nov. 2 general election.

The court ruling overturned a circuit court judge's order to election officials that would have kept Nader's name off the ballot.

In Pennsylvania, meanwhile, the state Commonwealth Court delayed a decision on Nader's request to place his name on that state's ballot to provide time to examine petition signatures.

Protesting nuns: Lawyers for three pacifist nuns sent to prison for causing minor damage at a missile site told a Denver appeals court Friday the women should not have been convicted of sabotage because they did not intend to cause destruction.

The three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asked several questions indicating doubt about whether the damage the nuns caused could have stemmed from a missile launch.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Murphy conceded the operation of the missile had not been disrupted but said soldiers had to be diverted from a training exercise to deal with the nuns.

Cross-burning trial: A man who burned a cross on a black family's lawn was sentenced Friday to more than three years in federal prison.

Christopher Easley, 22, of Anderson, Calif., had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate civil rights and interference with housing rights. Easley and a 16-year-old boy set the cross on fire last Jan. 2 in an attempt to intimidate the occupants of the home, prosecutors said.

Shuttle flight postponed: The first shuttle flight since the Columbia tragedy has been pushed back by NASA because hurricane damage and implementation of new safety measures made a spring 2005 launch "no longer achievable."

March or April had been the tentative date selected by NASA's spaceflight council, which announced the delay Friday.

Church bombing: An Alabama appeals court Friday unanimously upheld ex-Ku Klux Klan member Bobby Frank Cherry's murder conviction and life sentences for a 1963 church bombing that killed four black girls in Birmingham.

The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals rejected Cherry's argument that the 37-year delay between the crime and his indictment in 2000 was unfair.

Cherry, 74, was convicted in May 2002 and is serving four consecutive life sentences.

Military

Air Force Academy scandal: The first



Israeli-Palestinian conflict: An Israeli soldier stands on his military vehicle at the Israeli army staging area Saturday on the border of the Gaza Strip at Kibbutz Mefalim, Israel. Israeli troops killed seven Palestinian gunmen Saturday, as the Israelis expanded one of its largest offensives against Palestinian militants in four years. In a show of defiance, Hamas' secretive military wing, Izzedine al-Qassam, held its first-ever news conference in Jebelali — the refugee camp at the center of Israel's offensive — vowing to resist the Israeli assault and threatening to fire rockets at the Israeli city of Ashkelon.

woman to oversee instruction at the Air Force Academy assumed her new duties Friday following confirmation by the Senate.

Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, nominated by President Bush in July, succeeds Brig. Gen. David A. Wagie, who was criticized last year by a congressional panel for failing to recognize the academy's growing problem of sexual assault.

Wagie, dean of faculty since 1998, was cleared by the Pentagon of any wrongdoing. He retired Aug. 1.

Business

Enron CFO resigns: The man who became Enron Corp.'s chief financial officer only a month after the energy giant declared bankruptcy has resigned.

Raymond M. Bowen, 44, submitted his resignation, effective Friday, "to pursue other professional opportunities," said Enron spokeswoman Jennifer Lowmyer.

Bowen was also Enron's treasurer, a position he took shortly before Enron filed for Chapter 11 protection in December 2001.

World

Yugoslav war crimes trial: A prominent Belgrade journalist testified Friday at a landmark war crimes trial that he believed the 1991 massacre of nearly 200 Croat prisoners was not orchestrated by the former Yugoslav army, as alleged, but instead was carried out by Serb volunteers.

Eighteen low-ranking Serb soldiers are on trial on charges of executing 192 Croat soldiers and civilians held at a pig farm in Ovchara, near the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, following the town's capture by the Yugoslav army in 1991.

Nigeria oil dispute: A militia leader who threatened to launch an offensive on Nigeria's vital oil industry made a triumphant return to his southern stronghold Saturday, a

day after agreeing a tentative deal in the capital to disarm his fighters.

About 1,000 people turned out at the airport in the city of Port Harcourt to welcome Moujahid Dokubo-Asari, and hundreds more lined the roads into the city. As he stepped out of a government plane, his supporters lifted him on their shoulders and burst into song.

After three days of talks in the capital, Abuja, Dokubo-Asari agreed Friday to disarm his fighters but said he would continue a political struggle for regional autonomy and a greater share of oil wealth.

Yusuf Islam entry battle: Lawyers for the singer once known as Cat Stevens said Friday that they have asked American officials to remove his name from a "no fly" list.

The musician, now a peace activist named Yusuf Islam, was expelled from the United States last week after authorities diverted his London-to-Washington flight to Maine to remove him, saying he was suspected of ties to terrorism.

The Carter-Ruck law firm said it had asked the U.S. government to explain why it considered Islam a security risk.

Afghan election: About 340,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan have signed up so far to vote in historic presidential elections in their homeland on Oct. 9, but only about a fifth of them are women, organizers said Saturday.

The International Organization for Migration said it was satisfied with the response, but urged conservative communities to encourage more women to take part in Afghanistan's first democratic election after two decades of war.

Stories and photo from wire services



Islam

Iraqis agreed to help drive out terrorists



Minister of State for National Security Qasim Dawoud addresses a press conference in Baghdad Friday on the ongoing joint operations by U.S. and Iraqi forces in Samarra.

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Tribal leaders in the city of Samarra met with government officials prior to this week's U.S. and Iraqi assault on insurgents there, agreeing to help drive the terrorists out, according to the new government's top security official.

About 125 of those insurgents — including foreign fighters, Saddam Hussein supporters and common criminals — were killed in strikes Friday and another 88 injured, Qasim Dawoud, Iraq's minister of state for national security, during a Friday evening news conference.

Wire reports said sporadic fighting continued Saturday. American military press officials in Baghdad were unable to confirm that Saturday, or to update casualty figures.

Dawoud said the new Iraqi government was intent on meeting with tribal and social figures in war-torn towns such as Samarra, Najaf, Fallujah and Basra to garner local support for ousting insurgents. In the case of Samarra, Dawoud said the government

met with about 110 local leaders, who then asked for military intervention and pledged cooperation on Tuesday to "purify the land of Samarra of these terrorists."

The local leaders included clerics, professionals and social figures, the minister said.

In the wake of the strikes, Dawoud said residents of Samarra could now "enjoy peace and the reconstruction."

The United States has said it took up the campaign the request of the Iraqi government. About 5,000 troops — 3,000 Americans and 2,000 Iraqis — took the city hall and central mosque in Samarra. One U.S. soldier was killed and four were injured, the coalition has said.

Despite the talk of novel cooperation, Dawoud said that such agreements were not necessary for the new government and American forces to attack insurgent areas.

"Even if they did not ask us, we would have moved into the city," he said. "It is our duty to clean the city."

Dawoud also claimed that Fallujah and Ramadi would also

face similar large-scale assaults, and claimed that citizens in those towns also support the new government.

Fallujah saw that prediction come at least partially true later that evening.

Coalition forces targeted a dwelling the military called for Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, the Jordanian accused by the CIA and other officials of masterminding beheadings of foreigners in Iraq.

According to a Saturday coalition statement, about 10 terrorists were in the house at the time of the 10:53 p.m. attack. The released cited "credible intelligence sources" as having determined the house was an insurgent lair. It went further, saying no innocent civilians were injured in the attack.

"The Zarqawi network continues to disregard the safety of the people of Iraq by hiding among them," the statement read. "Multi-national forces accurately targeted this terrorist location while employing measures to protect innocent civilians and surrounding buildings."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Oct. 1, 2004, 1,055 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 801 died as a result of hostile action and 254 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 917 U.S. military members have died, 692 as a result of hostile action and 225 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Friday as military forces secured areas near Samarra, Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Darren J. Cunningham, 40, Groton, Mass.; died Thursday in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit came under mortar attack; assigned to the 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Troops now control 70% of Samarra

Car bombs in Fallujah, Mosul wound 3 U.S. troops; clashes rock Sadr City

BY ZIDAN KHALAF

The Associated Press

SAMARRA, Iraq — The U.S. military and Iraqi authorities said they controlled some 70 percent of Samarra and only pockets of resistance remained. At 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew was in effect, and water and electricity services were severed.

Maj. Gen. John Battiste, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, told CNN that U.S. and Iraqi troops faced a "couple of hundred" thugs in Samarra. He praised what he called the professionalism of Iraqi security forces.

Tank shelling and exchanges of machine gun fire erupted on the northern edges of the city Saturday evening but the city appeared mostly calm except for in the center, where American snipers on rooftops fired at anybody appearing in the streets below.

"It is over in Samarra," said Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaidan in a television interview with the Arab network Al-Arabiya.

He said Iraqi forces took on the lion's share of the fighting and U.S. troops "only provided cover for our operations."

He said up to \$40 million was being allocated for reconstruction and compensation to residents of the embattled city.

In another hostage drama, a militant group in Iraq posted a video on the Internet Saturday showing what it said was the beheading of an Iraqi construction contractor working on a U.S. military base.

The authenticity of the video could not be verified.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army has claimed responsibility for the killing of 12 Nepalese workers and three Iraqi Kurds.

A video showed the man identified as Ibrahim being beheaded by someone not seen on the video. Then his severed head was placed on his back.

A jailed Indonesian cleric accused of heading an al-Qaida-linked terror group said Saturday he refused to be freed in exchange for the release of two Indonesian women taken hostage in Iraq, as their captors have reportedly demanded.

The report of the demand could not immediately be confirmed.

Arab TV station Al-Jazeera showed footage Thursday of 10 hostages seized in Iraq by a militant group calling itself The Islamic Army. The hostages included Indonesians Rosdiah Binti Anas and Rafiqah Binti Amin along with two Lebanese and six Iraqis.

Outside Baghdad, a car bomb targeting a U.S. Marine convoy exploded east of Fallujah, another one of the cities that remain beyond U.S. and Iraqi government control. One Marine in the convoy was injured, said Lt. Lt. Lyle Gilbert, a Marine spokesman.

Police Lt. Sarmad Ali said American forces opened fire after the blast, wounding one Iraqi civilian. The military did not immediately respond to a request for comment about that incident.

Another car bomb struck a U.S.



A civilian car burns after a car bomb targeting a U.S. military convoy exploded in Mosul, 225 miles north of Baghdad, on Saturday.

convoy in the northern city of Mosul, wounding two American soldiers, the U.S. military said. The wounds were not life-threatening, said Capt. Angela Bowman, a military spokeswoman.

U.S. forces also clashed Saturday with insurgents in the vast Baghdad slum of Sadr City, with the U.S. military saying two of its soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb slammed into their armored personnel carrier.

The soldiers were evacuated to a medical facility after the attack, said Capt. Brian O'Malley, a spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division.

U.S. military officials have signaled they plan to increase incursions into key Iraqi cities this fall — partly as a way for the United States to try to pressure insur-

gents into negotiations with Iraqi officials. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld alluded to this last week when he said insurgents in Fallujah and the city of Ramadi can be solved either diplomatically through negotiations, or through force.

In the northern city of Suleimaniyah, about 100,000 Kurds demonstrated outside provincial government offices Saturday, demanding that the turbulent, oil hub of Kirkuk be merged with the autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq.

"Kirkukism means nothing without oil," said banners carried by the demonstrators, who called for a referendum to decide the future of all Kurds in Iraq. They also demanded that the two main Iraqi parties that now control the north unite under one banner.

Afghan forces arrest 25 Taliban, al-Qaida suspects

BY AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan intelligence agents backed by international peacekeepers arrested 25 people with alleged links to the Taliban and al-Qaida in an early morning raid in eastern Kabul on Saturday, a spokesman for the peacekeepers said.

Lt. Cdr. Ken Mackillop said the raid took place between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. in the Polcharki district of the capital. He gave no details about what the men were allegedly plotting or whether it was linked to historic presidential elections on Oct. 9.

Mackillop said he had no further details, other than that nobody was injured in the operation. Afghanistan's Intelligence Service had no comment on the raid.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the 18,000-strong U.S.-led military coalition warned that the election was entering a dangerous phase and that the Taliban were likely to try to disrupt it, despite all the efforts of Afghan and international security forces.

"We are getting to a more dangerous time," said spokesman Maj. Scott Nelson of the threat of Taliban or al-Qaida attack. "As we get closer to the election we expect to see more activity. We think we've done a good job along

with the government of Afghanistan to disrupt a lot of their operations — it only takes one person with a car bomb to get in there and get lucky and do something."

Two Afghan soldiers were killed and seven wounded in a land mine attack on their convoy in the southeastern city of Orzgan,

"We are getting to a more dangerous time. As we get closer to the election we expect to see more activity."

Maj. Scott Nelson
Spokesman

the U.S. military announced Saturday. The attack occurred Thursday.

U.S. soldiers came under attack by small arms fire Friday in the same area, and a base in south-eastern Khost province was attacked with rockets the same day, the military said. No injuries were reported in either incident.

Nelson said a significant threat still exists to Kabul and the southern city of Kandahar, both of which the Taliban has publicly

said they hope to target.

He said the rebels were concentrating most of their efforts on the south and east of the country, the regions where they have launched the most attacks on election workers, Afghan security forces and ordinary citizens in recent months.

Nelson said Taliban forces have tried to intimidate voters and local leaders.

"They have significantly increased their information propaganda war. We see a lot of 'night letters' in villages, particularly in the south and southeast. The Taliban claim responsibility for things they didn't do, and also just make things up," he said.

"Night letters" are unsigned leaflets that are distributed clandestinely.

The U.S. military's No. 2 commander, Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, told the AP on Friday that the worst fears of widespread militant attacks had not come to pass, and that there were no signs that the Taliban were capable of launching major violence on polling day.

Olson said he had been worried Taliban and al-Qaida fighters would sabotage the distribution of ballot papers and boxes around the country in recent weeks, but that the operation was now largely completed and had gone off successfully.



Osama bin Laden, left, with his top lieutenant Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahiri, is seen at an undisclosed location in this television image broadcast in 2001. U.S. authorities on Friday said they have "high confidence" about the authenticity of a new audiotape in which al-Qaida's second-in-command purportedly urges Muslim youths to strike against the United States and its allies.

U.S. has 'high confidence' al-Qaida tape is authentic

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A new audiotape purportedly from al-Qaida's second-in-command urging Muslim youths to attack the United States is probably authentic, a U.S. intelligence official said.

The tape, aired Friday on Al-Jazeera television, is purportedly from Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian-born confidante of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. It urged young Muslims to fight on even if al-Qaida leaders were killed or captured.

Less than a month ago, a videotape showed al-Zawahiri proclaiming the United States would be defeated in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You, youth of Islam, this is our message," the speaker said.

"If we die or are detained, continue the path after us, and don't betray God and his prophet, and don't knowingly betray the trust."

Following a technical analysis, a U.S. intelligence official said authorities were able to determine with "high confidence" that the voice was that of al-Zawahiri.

Dia's Rashwan, an expert on Islamic militants, played down the significance of the remarks.

"According to his belief, being killed is normal and expected, especially in his case," Rashwan said. "This is not the first time he has said this. It doesn't mean they

are close to being captured or killed."

There is a \$25 million U.S. bounty for information leading to the death or capture of either bin Laden or al-Zawahiri.

The tape surfaced hours after President Bush and Sen. John Kerry debated the U.S. war on terror and the search for bin Laden. The date the audiotape was made could not be determined from the segments aired.

The audiotape threatened interests of the United States and many of its allies, and urged young Muslims not to hesitate in acting against them.

Rashwan said al-Zawahiri's comments appeared to be calling for a new strategy of pre-emptive strikes.

"He's saying Muslims should attack before their countries are occupied. He is calling for action, instead of reaction," Rashwan said.

The speaker generally sounded more upbeat than previous tapes attributed to al-Zawahiri.

"The interests of the Americans, British, Australians, French, Polish, Norwegians, South Koreans and Japanese are spread everywhere," the speaker said. "We must not wait more... or we will be devoured one country after the other."

The tape said the countries cited had taken part in occupying Afghanistan or Iraq or Chechnya and had given Israel "means of survival."

2 soldiers awarded Silver Stars

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two U.S. army sergeants have been awarded one of the highest medals for heroism following fierce fighting against insurgents in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City, the U.S. command said Saturday.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Swope and Staff Sgt. Robert Miltenberger, both with the 1st Cavalry Division, were awarded Silver Star medals at a ceremony Thursday for "exceptional valor in combat during Operation Lancer Fury" in April.

Swope, a platoon sergeant from Richmond, Virginia, hastily organized a defense as rebels ambushed his unit April 4. Despite orders to abandon their Humvees, he remained alone in one of the vehicles for two hours under enemy fire so he could remain in vital radio contact with his headquarters, a command release said.

After "fierce urban combat," Swope's unit was rescued by armored vehicles.

But while returning to base, one of his platoon's surviving vehicles encountered more insurgents. Swope dismounted and under intense fire saved the lives of three soldiers. In ensuing days, the release said, Swope was back out in the streets of Sadr City engaged in battles with fighters of the al-Madhi Army.

Miltenberger, a squad leader, fought off several attacking militiamen April 4 while performing critical medical care on wounded soldiers in his squad. His hometown was not immediately available.

The 1st Cavalry Division has been in almost daily combat in Sadr City, where the al-Madhi Army loyal to radical Muslim Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, is still firmly entrenched.

France fears hostage negotiations could derail Iraq efforts

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — French authorities expressed deep Saturday that private negotiations to free two French hostages in Iraq could derail their own efforts, and cast doubt on a French lawmaker's claim that a U.S. attack had thwarted the captives' release.

Lawmaker Didier Julia, who claims to be involved in negotiations to free the two reporters, said Friday that a convoy bringing the captives to Syria came under U.S. fire, scuttling their release.

U.S. forces in Iraq, however, said they had no reports indicating the allegation was true.

A French official speaking Saturday said French authorities had no information to corroborate Julia's claims. The official expressed concern the lawmaker's unofficial efforts could complicate French rescue efforts.

French authorities "continue to act with total determination and in the hope of reaching the end," the official said.

He would not comment on whether French authorities would ask Julia to withdraw his mission.

Julia, a member of President Jacques Chirac's party, claimed that six Iraqi kidnappers were killed in the alleged U.S. attack, but that the hostages — Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot — were unharmed.

"I was expecting the return of our friends, the two journalists, today but this did not happen," Julia told reporters in the Syrian capital, Damascus. "The first reason is security, because the Americans greatly increased their bombardment."

Six of the Iraqi kidnappers were killed in the bombing, he said, declining to say

where the attack took place. He said the hostages were unharmed.

"Our friends at this moment are safe," he said.

Chesnot, 37, and Malbrunot, 41, disappeared Aug. 20 with their Syrian driver while apparently driving toward Najaf. Militants calling themselves the Islamic Army in Iraq claimed responsibility, demanding that France revoke a new law banning Islamic headscarves from state schools. The law, which also covers other conspicuous religious apparel such as Jewish skull caps and large Christian crosses, went into effect as planned.

U.S. efforts to employ Iraqi scientists set back

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

The Associated Press

The dangers of Baghdad and a shortage of cash have set back the U.S. effort to put Iraqi weapons scientists to work rebuilding their country and keep them off the global job market for makers of doomsday arms.

To steer them to civilian projects and training, the State Department had planned a dozen workshops and seminars for hundreds of idled specialists from Iraq's old nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs, beginning in the first half of 2004.

It also envisioned an early project, a desalination plant, as a model for other ventures employing scientists, engineers and technicians who once built weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear physicists might work in radiotherapy, for example, and chemists at environmental monitoring stations.

But the department got no new funds for the program, and none of these plans has gotten off the ground, nine months after U.S. officials said they would "jump-start" the initiative to discourage weapons experts from emigrating and offering their services to the highest bidder.

Some of the scientists, such as Syria, Iran and Egypt are believed to have programs in unconventional weapons that might benefit from Iraqi expertise.

"If they're in despair because they cannot get jobs, because the entire country is in chaos, they may be driven by necessity to find work elsewhere. That could include WMD work for other countries."

Rose Gottemoeller, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

This is an "imminent danger," said one of the Iraqi experts, Mahdi Obeidi.

"I hear there are some cases where scientists have left Iraq."

There's a concern of proliferation, and this should be controlled," said Obeidi, an engineer and key figure in Iraq's effort to build nuclear bombs in the 1980s.

Washington arms control specialist Rose Gottemoeller agreed. "If they're in despair because they cannot get jobs, because the entire country is in chaos, they may be driven by necessity to find work elsewhere. That could include WMD work for other countries," said Gottemoeller, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The State Department says the kidnappings, car bombings and general violence wrenching much of Iraq are a major obstacle to the joint U.S.-Iraqi activities needed to build momentum in the "reduction" program, as it's called.

In fact, the program's on-the-ground manager arrived in Baghdad only three weeks ago.

Prospects for the jobs-for-scientists program had dimmed when the Bush administration, facing a projected \$521 billion budget deficit this year, "flat-lined" spending in many areas. Its request to Congress calls for the same \$50 million for this purpose in fiscal year 2005 as allocated in 2004, when all of it was spent on a continuing, 12-year-old program in the former Soviet Union to employ ex-weapons builders. No new money is specified for Iraq.

Iraq's interim government has a "nonproliferation fund" of \$37.5 million, but "it's unclear at this point how this would be used," said Raphael Della Ratta, who tracks nonproliferation programs for the Russian-American Nuclear Security Advisory Council, a private Washington group.

Della Ratta said it's also unclear just which Iraqis should be "engaged with."

Iraq provinces may seek autonomy

BY ABBAS FAYADH

The Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — Three southern Iraqi provinces, which lie atop more than 80 percent of Iraq's huge oil reserves, are considering setting up an autonomous region, claims the area is being marginalized by the central government, officials said Friday.

The issue was raised this week during a visit by Vice President Rovosh Shaways, who invited members of city councils in the southern provinces of Basra, Misan and Dhiqar to visit three northern Kurdish provinces that secured autonomy after the 1991 Gulf War.

But no formal demand or blueprint has yet been put forth.

Walid Ghaithan, Basra's representative on the National Council, said the city and the southern region were not fairly represented in Baghdad. The National Council is serving as a watchdog for the interim central government until elections are held in January.

"Is it fair for a city like Basra with 3 million people to only have one representative on the National Council?" asked Ghaithan.

"Isn't this enough to call for federalism?"

An autonomous south for Iraq's economy because most of Iraq's oil reserves are in the region. Oil is the main source of funds urgently needed for reconstruction of the country.

Iraq has the world's second-largest oil reserves — 112 billion barrels — second only to Saudi Arabia.

The quest for federalism, first reported by the Financial Times, might also lead to a much-feared

fragmentation of Iraq, with its multiple rivalries among ethnic, religious and tribal groups.

"We are for the idea that the states and cities of the south become a federal union because Basra and the south in general have been isolated from central decision-making," said Saleem al-Taqi, a member of the Basra city council.

"This is what makes a large number of Iraqis call for federalism," al-Taqi said.

Army Brig. Gen. Ali Thani, a politician without party affiliations, said he too supports federalism.

"Our ambition is that Basra and the southern cities of Nasiriyah and Amara become a federal unit with an administration, economic and independent authority."

"This is a legitimate demand for Iraqis who previously suffered from injustice," he said, referring to repression of Iraq's Shiite majority by the fallen regime of Saddam Hussein.

The Shiites, who make up about 60 percent of the country's 25 million people, are concentrated in the south.

The invitation by Shaways to visit Kurdish areas was welcomed by members of the Basra city council.

Since Saddam was deposed by the U.S.-led invasion in April 2003, the three Kurdish provinces have been living in relative peace, a sharp contrast to the violence in much of Iraq. The northern region has been controlled by two major Kurdish political parties, each with its own militia, for the past 13 years.

Iraq's Kurdish minority has been promised a large measure of autonomy when a permanent Iraqi constitution is drawn up following January's elections.



A man cries as he takes possession of a coffin carrying the body of his brother at Yarmouk hospital in Baghdad on Friday. A string of bombs killed 35 children and wounded scores of others as U.S. troops handed out candy Thursday at a government sponsored celebration to inaugurate a new sewage plant.

Iraqis blame U.S. for deaths of 35 children

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Families of the 35 children who died in a string of bombings in Baghdad blamed American troops for the tragedy, accusing them of attracting insurgents to a ceremony where the attacks occurred.

By Friday, tents had sprung up in the el-Amel neighborhood in Baghdad to accommodate mourners who gathered to share their grief from the Thursday attack. In the carnage, several explosions ripped into a crowd gathered to celebrate the inauguration of a new, much needed sewage plant.

Residents said that before the start of the celebration, U.S. soldiers called among the children through loudspeakers to join the crowd, promising them sweets. There were an unusually large number around because the long school holidays were nearing an end.

"I blame the Americans for this tragedy. They wanted to make human shields out of our children. They should have kept the children away from danger," said Abdel-Hadi al-Badri, a cleric at the al-Mubashroun al-Ashra mosque, breaking down in tears during Friday prayers.

Al-Badri's son lost his right leg in the explosion after he ignored his father's warnings to stay away from the U.S. troops.

"The Americans are the first terrorists and the people who carried out the attack are the second terrorists," he added. It was the

largest number of children killed in any single insurgent attack since the conflict erupted 17 months ago.

Al-Badri's is a common lament here. Confronted by daily bombings, kidnappings, deadly crossfires and soaring violent crime, many Iraqis blame most of their ills on the Americans. Many say that they and their children would not be dying today had the U.S. not invaded their country 17 months ago.

About 100 yards from the site of two of the three explosions, a large red and yellow tent was filled with mourners for 12 and six sisters, Raghad Dharar, 12, and Meisour Dharar, 10, who were killed as they returned from a nearby market.

Troops are frequently approached by Iraqi children asking for candy, pens and other handouts, and the soldiers often oblige, either because they hope to win some hearts and minds or simply because the youngsters are appealing or clearly impoverished.

In another tent, Najam Hussein was weeping over his child Ali Najam who was killed in the explosion minutes after he joined the celebration.

Hussein, who sells chandeliers, said nobody in the neighborhood had expected the tragedy that scythed down so many innocent children.

"Blaming any party will not bring back my dead son. It seems that 25 million people will die before the democracy is achieved in this country," he said.

IN THE STATES

Bush, Kerry trade jabs over domestic issues

BY PETE YOST

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — President Bush lashed out at Sen. John Kerry on Saturday for his stands on domestic programs ranging from retirement to health care, saying the Democrat is obstructing needed reforms that would give workers more control over their financial future.

"He's decided to put his faith in the wisdom of the government," Bush said of Kerry. "I will always put my faith in the wisdom of the American people."

Campaigning in Orlando, Fla., Kerry described the president's record of tax cuts as a boon to the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

"Time and time again, he has made the same choice — to use the power of the presidency to give more and more to the wealthy with the most, more to the wealthiest individuals, more to the most well connected," Kerry said. "And the result? George Bush doesn't have a record to run on. He has a record to run away from."

Kerry said the president's programs, specifically his tax cuts, have done little to create jobs, expand health care coverage to uninsured families, make college affordable or promote fair trade.

"George Bush has given more to those with the most at the expense of the middle-class working families who are struggling to get ahead and reach the American dream," Kerry said. "For those people who are struggling, for more years of Bush choices is just four more years I don't think they can really afford."

Kerry touted his own ideas to expand tax deductions for college tuition, a tax credit for health insurance, a promise to make trade relationships fairer, while rolling back tax cuts given to the wealth-



AP photos

Above: Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry and his wife, Teresa, are introduced at a Kerry rally Thursday at the Miami Arena in Miami following his first presidential debate with President Bush in Coral Gables, Fla. Right: President Bush greets the crowd while campaigning in Allentown, Pa., on Friday.

est individuals.

In Columbus, the president sought to turn Kerry's own words against him by criticizing a recent speech in Detroit in which the Democrat said, "This president has created more excuses than jobs." Kerry often criticizes the Bush administration for over-seeing the first job-loss record since the Depression.

"Not once in his speech did he mention expanding ownership," Bush said. "Not a word on how we help more Americans own their own homes, or stocks, or savings accounts. Instead, his agenda focuses on expanding the scope and power of the government."

In that Sept. 15 speech, Kerry tried to reassure his conservative-leaning audience that he would be a friend to business, declaring, "I'm an entrepreneurial

Democrat." But Bush told the National Association of Home Builders that Kerry voted against tax-deductible health savings accounts and expanding personal retirement savings.

The president said Kerry opposed proposals to strengthen Social Security by allowing younger workers to put some of their taxes into personal accounts and that Kerry "opposes our plan to allow small businesses to join together to purchase health insurance discounts available to big companies."

The candidates, shifting their focus to bread-and-butter economic issues in campaign stops in two closely divided states, still found time to trade jabs over Iraq.

Bush contended that the Kerry approach to foreign policy would give other governments veto



power over the security of the United States, a partisan interpretation of Kerry's debate statement that pre-emptive strikes require a "global test where your countrymen, your people understand fully why you're doing what you're doing, and you can prove to the world that you did it for legitimate reasons."

Bush said, "The country is in

danger and the president's job is not to take an international poll." Kerry repeated his debate pledge that, "as president, I will focus on the real enemy of 9/11 Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda and its network. And I will hunt down, and I will capture and kill the terrorists before they get us."

He criticized Bush as "just plain stubborn, out of touch, and unwilling to change course."

Fox News pulls fake Kerry quotes off Web

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fox News apologized Friday for posting phony quotes from Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on its Web site.

Carl Cameron, a Fox reporter who covers the Kerry campaign, wrote an item that looked like a news story with made-up Kerry quotes, said Paul Schur, a Fox spokesman. The item was not intended to be posted on the site.

"Carl made a stupid mistake which he regrets," Schur said Friday night. "And he has been reprimanded for his lapse in judgment. It was a poor attempt at humor."

The phony item posted early Friday read in part: "Rallying supporters in Tampa Friday, Kerry played up his performance in Thursday night's debate in which many observers

agreed the Massachusetts senator outperformed the president."

"Didn't my nails and cuticles look great? What a good debate! Kerry said Friday."

"With the foreign-policy debate in the history books, Kerry hopes to keep the pressure on and the sense of traction going."

"Aides say he will step up attacks on the president in the next few days, and pivot somewhat to the domestic agenda, with a focus on women and abortion rights."

"It's about the Supreme Court. Women should like me! I do manicures," Kerry said.

The item quoted Kerry as saying of himself and President Bush: "I'm metrosexual — he's a cowboy."

After pulling the item, Fox posted a statement on its Web site, www.FOXNews.com, apologizing for the error.

Alaska to rewrite ballot again

Judge orders second revision of Senate vacancies initiative

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — For the second time, a judge has ordered the state to rewrite its summary of a ballot initiative that asks voters to change how Alaska fills its U.S. Senate vacancies.

Two days after ordering the state to rewrite ballot language she said was biased and inaccurate, Judge Morgan Christen ruled that the revision by Lt. Gov. Loren Leman, head of the state Division of Elections, also was unacceptable.

Christen gave state officials and ballot supporters until Friday night to come up with a new version. The court-ordered reprinting and redistribution of 517,000 ballots for the Nov. 2 election is on hold until an acceptable summary is written.

Some Democratic lawmakers began the drive to put the Senate initiative on the ballot after Republican Frank Murkowski appointed his daughter Lisa to his Senate seat when he became governor in 2002.

Currently, the governor can appoint a replacement to a vacant Senate seat. The initiative would require a special election in all cases except when the vacancy occurs within 60 days of a primary election.

The group supporting the measure said it objected to the new ballot summary's title, "Repeal Temporary Appointment of U.S. Senator," which state officials agreed to change to "Temporary Replacement of U.S. Senator."

Initiative reporter also objected to this sentence in the summary: "If the initiative passes the seat would remain vacant until the election is certified and the Senate next meets."

Initiative backers say that sentence is biased, confusing and prejudicial. They say the seat would remain vacant for a period of time under current law, too, but that is not stated in the summary.

Nearly all the 517,000 Alaska ballots with the original ballot language have already arrived at regional election offices, and will be destroyed. About 4,500 advance ballots with the rejected language already have been mailed to absentee voters and will be used in the election.

The proposition's summary, as it initially appeared on the ballot, said the measure would leave Alaska without full representation in the Senate for three to five months.



NEW CAR LOAN

Another Superior Rate

4.9%
APR

61 to 72 months
\$20,000 or more

Is there a new truck
in your future? With
one of the lowest rates
in the nation your future
truck may not be that
far off. Apply today.

Plus, FREE Guaranteed Asset Protection Insurance (GAP)
when you qualify for this loan—a **\$225 value!**



Pentagon Federal Credit Union
Superior Rates. Proven Service.®

1-800-247-5626 • www.PenFed.org
or call **510-376-7328** from any on-base, Class "A" DSN line

FCUA Please mention Code 600. You must be a member to receive services. All Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard personnel (including National Guard and Reserve), Dept. of Homeland Security personnel, Dept. of Defense personnel, and your families are eligible to join. Others are also eligible. Rate is current as of October 1, 2004, and is subject to change without notice. Other conditions apply. New Car Loan example: 2002, 2003 loan at 4.9% APR, 72 monthly payments of approximately \$303 each. *To receive free GAP insurance, loan proceeds must be disbursed by the month of October 2004.

Mt. St. Helens: Quiet now, but not for long

By DAVID AMMONS

The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — Mount St. Helens quieted down after spewing a plume of steam and ash — but only briefly.

Within hours of the eruption Friday, seismic readings suggested pressure was building again inside the volcano, which had been dormant for 18 years.

It began rumbling last week, set off by small earthquakes occurring as often as three or four times a minutes, and scientists said there could be more steam eruptions soon.

Mount St. Helens, the volcano that blew its top with cataclysmic force in 1980, erupted for the first time in 18 years Friday, belching a huge column of white steam and ash after days of rumblings under the mountain. The eruption cast a haze across the horizon as the rolling plume rose from the nearly 1,000-foot-tall lava dome. Scientists had been predicting just such an eruption for days.

AP

Friday's eruption, described by government scientist Jeff Wynn as a "throat-clearing," was the sleeping giant's first since 1986. On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens blew its top with such force that 57 people lost their lives.

The volcanic burp cast a haze across the horizon as the rolling plume rose from the nearly 1,000-foot-tall dome. After about 20 minutes, the mountain calmed and the plume dissipated.

"It was such a thrill!" said Faye Ray, a retired school teacher who watched from an observatory near the mountain. "I just felt we would see something today and we did."

The ash appeared to pose no threat to anyone, but scientists warned that people living south-west of the mountain might notice a dusting on their cars. There was no sign of lava.

The earthquakes started Sept. 23 and grew steadily stronger, finally reaching a magnitude of 3.3 Thursday and Friday. After the eruption, they stopped for several hours, said Wynn, of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Then the tremors resumed, hitting a one-per-minute pace, said Bill Steele at the University of Washington seismic laboratory. A couple exceeded magnitude 2.

A few more steam explosions are likely, Steele said, "until enough debris is cleared, and then there is a significant chance that lava could be extruded at the surface."

Tom Pierson, a USGS geologist, said officials will monitor the site "on a very intense scale until we can determine that the thing has really gone back to sleep."

Scientists had not been expecting anything like the mountain's devastating eruption in 1980, which costed much of the Northwest with ash and obliterated the top 1,300 feet of the mountain. It now stands 8,364 feet.

Few people live near the mountain, the centerpiece of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, about 100 miles south of Seattle. The closest structure is the Johnston Ridge Observatory, about five miles from the crater.

"It wasn't lava-y, so I wasn't scared," said Lorain Weatherly, who was working a snack bar down the road from St. Helens. "It was like a big white cloud."

Mike Fergus, a spokesman with the Federal Aviation Administration in Seattle, said the plume had reached 16,000 feet in altitude.



Seismic energy released from Mount St. Helens in Washington state has been increasing for days now, crackling up to a level not seen since 1986. In March 1980 a series of medium earthquakes were followed by small eruptions over a two-month period. Then in May of that year an earthquake shook St. Helens causing an avalanche on the northern slope and an explosion of magma, spreading ash over hundreds of miles.

Explosive eruptions project fire, gas and solid rock fragments upward. They can also emit sulfuric acid, which can temporarily alter the climate.

Effective New flows are affected by the amount and frequency of the eruptions, as well as steepness of the slope.

Volcanic mountains grow with each eruption as discharge cools and forms new layers.

Volcanic eruptions

Magma chamber gradually forms at level beneath the surface.

Mount St. Helens is a part of a range that sits on the boundaries of tectonic plates.

As continental plates from the ocean floor collide, magma forms a large reservoir or chamber.

Pressure builds until it gets too strong for the rock that forms the chamber's ceiling. The magma rises through fissures and erupts through the top or side of the volcano.

An eruption can be explosive, effusive or both. Explosive eruptions are caused by the expansion of high-pressure gas within rising magma and can result in dust columns up to 30 miles high. Effusive eruptions involve gas-free magma that forms a lava flow at the surface.

SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey, "Volcanoes" (Famly Books Ltd.)

Tourists flock to see the show

By GENE JOHNSON

The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — Pam Morret and her husband, Lynn, missed the big eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. They sure were not going to miss this one.

So they donned their leather jackets, chaps and bandanas, hopped on their motorcycles, and began cruising up Highway 504 — past a theater that that airs the 1980 footage every 45 minutes, past trinket shops hawkling statues made of volcano bits, past a lodge that happily warned travelers: "Watch your ash up there!"

When the Vancouver couple got to within five miles of the Johnston Ridge Observatory on Friday, they pulled to the side of the road and saw what they had been coming for: an ash-en-white cloud billowing from the volcano's crater.

"It was like a big burp," said Pam Morret, 49.

Thanks to the predictive abilities of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Morrets were not alone when they finally did make it to Johnston Ridge, a barren shoulder of land which looks into the crater from about five miles away. Hundreds of tourists jammed the parking lot and visitor center, drawn by the rumblings from the nation's most cantankerous mountain, but



With spectators yelling and hooting at the Johnston Ridge Observatory, Mount St. Helens erupts, first with steam, then with ash Friday in Mount St. Helens, Wash. The observatory is five miles from the crater.

reassured that any eruption would be far smaller than the one that killed 57 people more than two decades ago.

Some tourists — like the Morrets — smiled in giddy, guilt-free wonder at the mountain's puff.

Others were disappointed: They didn't head for the hills until they saw Friday's eruption on television, and by the time they made it up there, the cloud had cleared.

"I missed it by about 40 min-

utes. I am so disappointed," said Elva Ahearn, 68, of Auburn. "But I am still excited to be here. I'm still hoping I'll see something."

The eruption capped an exciting week at the mountain. Hundreds of people visited every day, watching seismic needles chart bouncing lines at the observatory and quietly urging the volcano to put on a show — just not too big a show.

Associated Press writer David Ammons contributed to this report.

Scene brings back memories

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Two decades ago, when Mount St. Helens last erupted, Marcia Howell woke up to "a charcoal gray world."

Everything was covered with rock and ash.

On Friday, she couldn't help but be disappointed when all she and thousands of others saw was a plume of steam that began to dissipate after about 20 minutes.

"I didn't get here in time," shrugged Howell, 62, who brought her sketchpad to a hilltop park in Portland. She ended up drawing a serene view of the mountain.

The noontime eruption was nowhere near what happened 24 years ago when the majestic peak blew its top. For weeks, the powder kept raining down, showering towns up to 250 miles away with rock and ash.

"It wasn't as spectacular as the first time," said Lee Valgaardson, who had just bought his first car when the volcano erupted in 1980.

"It was a bright red when I bought it. By the end of the year it was a dull pink. The ash just took the finish right off," she laughed.

In Cougar, Wash., the town closest to the crater, residents joked about Friday's eruption.

"You survive the blow?" Ron Jackman, a retired logger, kidded friend Mike Mathews while the two were in line at the Cougar Store.

"We got lava up to the back of the barn, but other than that, everything's fine," Mathews said.

Within hours of the volcanic burp, seismic readings suggested pressure was building up again inside the mountain that began rumbling last week.

IMF meeting focuses on China, debt relief

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The world's major economic powers were far apart Saturday on agreeing how to provide debt relief for Iraq and the poorest nations, as finance officials began broader discussions about the global economy.

Treasury Secretary John Snow and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan led the U.S. delegation to the meeting of the International Monetary Fund's policy setting body. The issue of easing the debt burden, particularly in Africa, was high on the agenda.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, the chairman of the group, has offered a British plan to pay for expanded debt relief by revaluing the IMF's gold reserves according to world prices and by getting wealthy nations to commit more resources.

By contrast, the Bush administration is pushing a proposal that essentially would mean the most impoverished countries would not have to repay existing loans. But new loans would be reduced by the amount of increased debt forgiveness the countries received, under this approach.

Aid groups welcomed U.S. support for expanded debt relief, but they prefer the British plan.

Failing to narrow their differences on Friday, the Group of Seven major industrial countries pledged in a statement to "prepare a progress report on these efforts by the end of the year."

With its plan, the United States also hoped to win support for erasing as much as 95 percent of Iraq's \$120 billion in foreign debt.

France and Germany, however, say they are willing to provide 50 percent debt relief for Iraq this

year and will return to the issue in three years when, they hope, Iraq is more stable.

Snow expressed confidence in an eventual resolution.

"We will have ample opportunity to address this later. We are making progress," he told reporters Saturday during a break in the meetings.

The three days of talks were to wrap up Sunday with the annual meetings of the 184-nation IMF and its sister lending agency, the World Bank.

The meetings were taking

place under tight security. In August, the administration reported that the IMF and World Bank were on a terrorist target list of major financial institutions.

In addition to debt relief, U.S. officials lobbied their Chinese counterparts to commit to no longer linking their currency, the yuan, closely to the value of the dollar. The effort is intended to address the burgeoning U.S. trade deficits and nearly 3 million lost American manufacturing jobs.

The Chinese pledged only to "push ahead firmly and steadily to a market-based flexible exchange rate."

Teens get direct-mail racist CD

BY AMY FORLITI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — An anti-discrimination group is warning parents about a "white power" music label that is using bulk mailing lists to send racist CDs to teenagers across the country.

An official of Panzerfaust Records said it was pressing 100,000 copies of a "pro-white sampler CD" in a campaign dubbed Project Schoology USA, after a similar effort earlier this year in Germany.

"Panzerfaust has intentionally designed its CDs to lure unsuspecting teens with a free giveaway that has the appearance of being just another free compilation of cutting edge music," Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a statement this week.

"In reality, it is a thinly veiled attempt to attract kids to hateful, racist music and white power bands," he said.

Panzerfaust, based in the Twin Cities suburb of Newport, says on its Web site that white teenagers

are the target audience for its CD, which features song titles such as "White Supremacy," "Hate Train Rolling" and "Commie Scum."

"Obviously there's a message behind the music, and the message is one that we're also interested in marketing as well," said Byron Calvert, one of the men who operate Panzerfaust, named after a Nazi anti-tank weapon.

Calvert, 33, said Wednesday that his label already had sent out 5,000 CDs — most were direct-mailed to teenagers nationwide with interests including heavy metal music or skateboarding. Calvert bought bulk mailing lists to obtain the teens' names and addresses.

The CDs were also sent to supporters to distribute at skate parks, gun shows, flea markets and schools, Calvert said. They also were available via the Web site for 15 cents a copy.

Calvert, whose legal name is Bryant Calvert Cecchini, last worked at Resistance Records, another white-power label based in West Virginia. In 1989, at age 17, he was sentenced to more than three years in prison for stabbing two men.



Left top: The cover of a compact disc made by Panzerfaust Records is shown. Panzerfaust Records, one of the nation's largest "white power" music labels, said it had pressed 100,000 copies of the "pro-white sampler CD" and begun mailing them out to volunteers around the country to distribute in schools and elsewhere.



Left below: Byron Calvert, one of the men who operate Panzerfaust Records. An official of Panzerfaust Records said the campaign was dubbed Project Schoology USA, after a similar effort in Germany this year.

AP

BUY TWO GET ONE FREE

Free item must be of equal or lesser value than the lowest priced item purchased. Entire stock included.

Payless.com®

Site ends 10/3/04. The same great styles and prices you've found at your local Payless ShoeSource® are available at Payless.com®. We ship to all APO/FPO addresses via standard ground delivery. We cannot ship Second Day or Next Day air to APO/FPO addresses. When you check out, simply enter either APO or FPO in the City field, and select one of the following two-letter codes from the drop down box in the State field (AE-Armed Forces Europe, Middle East, Africa and Canada, AA-Armed Forces Americas or AP-Armed Forces Pacific).

©2004 Payless

we support our troops

Forecasters: Quieter October and November for hurricanes

The Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — A team of forecasters on Friday predicted the Atlantic hurricane season will finish much more quietly than it began, but said the probability of additional storms remains higher than usual.

William Gray and Phil Klotzbach of Colorado State University said the five named storms that affected Florida in August and September were unparalleled in history going back 130 years.

"It is not the number of hurricanes in the Atlantic basin that has been so unusual, but rather the rare combination of high hurricane activity and very favorable surrounding hurricane steering conditions that drove so many storms from the deep tropics across Florida in such a short time period," Gray said. "This year has been a once-in-a-lifetime kind of year."

The 2004 storm season has already seen 12 named storms, including eight hurricanes — six of them intense. The team's October forecast calls for three more named storms, including two non-intense hurricanes.

The probability of at least one named storm hitting the U.S. coast this month is 33 percent,

slightly above the 29 percent long-term average. The probability of at least one major hurricane (at least a category 3) crossing the U.S. coastline in October is 8 percent (6 percent is the average).

In all, the CSU team predicted a 2004 total of 15 named storms, nine hurricanes and six intense hurricanes. The long-term average is 9.6 named storms, 5.9 hurricanes and 2.3 intense hurricanes per year.

"We have studied more than 100 years of storm data, and this year did not behave like any other year we have studied," Gray said.

Gray and Klotzbach said they anticipate little activity in November.

Tropical Storm Lisa spent a few hours as a hurricane Friday, then lost strength as predicted and again became a tropical storm, a threat only to ships, forecasters said.

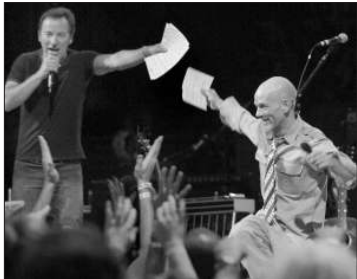
At 11 p.m. EDT, Lisa had top sustained winds near 70 mph after just a few hours at near 75 mph, just over the 74 mph threshold for a hurricane, said forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. It was being upgradi-



Above: James Taylor, center, and The Dixie Chicks, from left, Emily Robison, Natalie Maines and Martie Maguire, perform together at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh on Friday.

Top right: John Mellencamp performs at the F.M. Kirby Performing Arts Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Bottom right: Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder sings in Reading, Pa.



Above left: Michael Stipe of R.E.M., right, and Bruce Springsteen appear on stage at the start of the "Vote For Change" concert on Friday in Philadelphia.

Above right: Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, and Keb Mo perform at the Warner Theatre in Erie, Pa. All the rockers are supporters of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and part of a 10-day tour, which got under way with concerts in various cities.



AP photos

Rockers tour swing states to sway voters

BY JENNIFER KAY
The Associated Press

Bruce Springsteen and R.E.M. frontman Michael Stipe stayed on message from the time they took the stage: vote John Kerry on Nov. 2.

The rockers joined an assortment of performers across the country Friday night in kicking off the "Vote for Change" tour, a 10-day series of concerts in battleground states aimed at helping out President Bush.

Springsteen opened with a solo version

of "The Star Spangled Banner," then a rousing rendition of his anti-war anthem "Born in the U.S.A."

"America is not always right — that's a fairy tale you tell your children — but America is always true, and it's in seeking this truth that we find a deeper patriotism," Springsteen told cheering fans after endorsing Kerry, a Democrat.

Springsteen and Stipe, both critics of the war in Iraq, took the stage together to introduce the first band, Bright Eyes, and to remind the crowd to vote. "This is a very important moment for every one of us and for our country," Stipe said.

Later, during R.E.M.'s hourlong set,

Stipe occasionally offered brief political comments. Introducing a song called "Final Straw" that was released the week the United States declared war on Iraq, he asked, "Did anyone watch the debates last night?" Thousands in the packed stadium cheered loudly, many raising their hands.

Across the state, the Dixie Chicks and James Taylor performed in Pittsburgh. Other concerts were held in Erie, State College, Reading and Wilkes-Barre.

"I think our guy did really pretty good last night," Taylor said of Kerry's debate performance. He advised undecided voters to "take a real close look at both of the candidates and then vote for the smart one."

Dixie Chicks' Natalie Maines, once criticized for saying she was ashamed to share her home state of Texas with Bush, noted that a few people booed Taylor's assessment of Kerry's debate performance.

"We don't feel at home unless we hear some boos, so you're welcome," she said.

The tour, also featuring Pearl Jam, Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, John Mellencamp and others, includes 37 shows in 30 states through Oct. 11. Proceeds will go to America Coming Together, or ACT, a group raising money for Democratic candidates. Organizers said 90 percent of the shows, including the one in Philadelphia, were sold out as of Friday.

Execs do dirty work during casino strike

The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Front-office executives served drinks, lawyers flipped hamburgers and accountants made beds Friday after 10,000 union workers went on strike at several of Atlantic City's casinos.

Cocktail waitresses, housekeepers, bellhops and other members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union walked off the job and hit the picket lines around daybreak, some in the middle of their shifts.

Dealers and others holding gambling-related jobs were not part of the dispute, and the 24-hour casinos remained open, though service was curtailed at some.

Denise Kelly and her boyfriend were drinking

beer and playing the slot machines at Bally's Atlantic City at 6 a.m. when their cocktail waitress quit mid-shift.

"She says, 'This is your last beer because we're going on strike. Bye,'" said Kelly, 31, of Long Beach, N.Y.

The striking workers have been without a contract since their five-year deal expired Sept. 15. They are demanding a three-year contract, protection against the use of nonunion restaurant workers, and casino-funded health care.

"It's something we have to do," said Veronica Lesniak, 44, a banquet server at Bally's who picketed along the Boardwalk. "I hope to God it can be settled quickly and we can be back at work, where we all need to be."

Vermont town 'Phishing' for answers

The Associated Press

COVENTRY, Vt. — A small town that became Vermont's largest city for a weekend is still debating whether hosting the jam band Phish's final concert was a good idea.

"There were a lot of life-changing experiences in Coventry," Selectboard Chairman Mike Marcotte said, reflecting on the festival that rocked the town nearly two months ago.

Life is slowly returning to normal in the town of 1,014 residents.

Many residents went away from the concert, which drew about 70,000 fans, with a positive experience, but whether the town would ever want to repeat the experience is a matter of debate.

Marcotte said the Selectboard is hearing adamant opinions on both sides of the issue. On Town Meeting Day, the Selectboard will ask residents if they'd like to see a law drawn up that would give residents more control over who could take over their town for a big event.

Photographer Richard Avedon dead at 81



Photographer Richard Avedon poses in front of his self-portraits during a 2002 exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Avedon died Friday at age 81 in San Antonio, Texas.

BY MADISON J. GRAY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Richard Avedon, the celebrated photographer who revolutionized the art form over the last half-century, died Friday at age 81.

Avedon amassed a body of work that included lush fashion spreads in extravagant locations such as the pyramids of Egypt, but he went in another direction with his portrait work, shooting unsparring and often unflattering shots of famous subjects.

Avedon's death came after he suffered a brain hemorrhage last month while on assignment in San Antonio, Texas, for The New Yorker magazine. He had been taking pictures for a piece called "On Democracy," shooting politicians, delegates and citizens from around the country.

"We've lost one of the great vi-

sual imaginations of the last half century," said David Remnick, editor of The New Yorker.

Avedon's influence on photography was immense, and his fashion work helped create the era of supermodels such as Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford.

During his career, Avedon worked for such photography-driven publications as Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, and served as The New Yorker's first staff photographer. His skill also earned him another title: He was reputed to be the world's highest-paid photographer.

"He's the most wonderful man in the business because he realizes that models are not just coat hangers," famed model Szzy Parker once said. An Avedon shot of Parker from 1959 was credited with igniting the bikini boom.

But among Avedon's best-known work was "Nothing Per-

sional," a 1964 collection of unflattering photographs of affluent Americans.

Time magazine called his photos of former President Eisenhower, Adlai Stevenson, Marilyn Monroe and other celebrities "a subtler, crueler instrument of distortion than any caricaturist's pen."

His signature style was known simply as "The Avedon Look."

In 2002-03, Avedon's portrait work was highlighted at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. All the subjects were shot against a white background, without any of the typical poses or smiling faces.

"If a day goes by without my doing something related to photography, it's as though I've neglected something essential to my existence, as though I had forgotten to wake up," he said in 1970. "I know that the accident of my being a photographer has made my life possible."

Utah cops find body of missing woman

BY PAUL FOY
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The body of a young Utah woman allegedly killed by her husband has turned up in a landfill that police had been searching since her disappearance in late July.

The state medical examiner's office used dental records to identify Lori Hacking's remains about six hours after they were discovered Friday.

"It means everything to us to find Lori's mortal remains so that we might lay them to rest with dignity," Hacking's parents, Erlando and Thelma Soares, said in a statement.

The discovery came on the 33rd workday of a search of 4,600 tons of garbage. Over the past weeks, investigators used cadaver dogs and garden rakes to comb through the trash.

Hacking, a 27-year-old assistant stock broker, had not been seen since July 18. Her 28-year-old husband, Mark Hacking, reported her missing the following day, saying she never returned from a morning jog.

Authorities believe Lori Hacking was killed after she learned her husband was not enrolled in medical school in North Carolina, even though they were packing to move there. It was the latest in a series of deceptions perpetrated by the husband over several years, police say.

While Mark Hacking was hospitalized in a psychiatric unit, he allegedly confessed to his brothers that he shot his wife while she was sleeping and disposed of her body, the weapon and a mattress in a trash bin. He was charged with murder and jailed on \$1 million bail.

The search was called off Friday, though police have not found a .22-caliber gun they believe was the murder weapon.



After searching through a Utah landfill for weeks, police on Friday found the remains of Lori Hacking, who had been missing since late July.

"We were confident we could go forward with the case without a body, and now we have the body," said Assistant District Attorney Robert Stott.

Mark Hacking's attorney, Gil Athay, did not return calls Friday from The Associated Press.

The remains were found among trash that included newspapers dated July 16-19, the weekend-end Lori Hacking disappeared.

Investigators also found business envelopes indicating they were from the University of Utah Research Park area where Mark Hacking worked and where prosecutors believed he dumped the body in the trash.

Police Chief Rick Dinse said the remains found "were not all intact."

Mark Hacking's father, Douglas Hacking, issued a statement saying, "We hope today's discovery will begin to bring closure to both our family and the Soares families in this tragic event."



YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON

COMBAT

WE'RE THE EXPERT ON CAR INSURANCE.

Low monthly payment plan.

Local claim service in English.

Immediate registration/drive today.

GEICO

CALL OR VISIT US FOR A FREE RATE QUOTE.

CALL GEICO STATESIDE,
TOLL-FREE FROM:

AZORES 800-811-0421
BELGIUM 00-800-841-3000
GERMANY 00-800-841-3000
GREECE 800-142-4038
ITALY 800-877-424
JAPAN KDD 001-800-841-3000
TELECOM 0041-800-841-3000
IDC 0061-800-841-3000

KOREA
KTA 001-800-841-3000
DACOM 002-800-841-3000
SPAIN 900-917070
TURKEY 800-1342-4938
U.K. 800-0989174

GEICO OVERSEAS OFFICES:

AZORES 295-513467
BELGIUM 005-728533
Shope

GERMANY
Kana 06181-9690310
Kaiserbarm 0631-54066
Other Germany areas,
toll-free 08001008687
GREECE
Socla Bay 02827-821494

ITALY
Aviano 0434-660118
Dorly 050-547553
La Maddalena 0789-730101

Naples 081-8115558
Sigmella 095-7130182
Vicenza 0444-504366

SPAIN 956-811616
UNITED KINGDOM
Lakenheath 01438-533400
Menwith Hill 01423-563575
Midwellhall 01583-751567

Other U.K. areas,
toll-free 0800-318524

IN THE WORLD

U.N. to add 5,900 more troops to Congo force

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council unanimously approved a resolution increasing the U.N. peacekeeping force in Congo by 5,900 troops and international police — less than half the amount requested by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The council's action Friday will reinforce the 10,800-strong U.N. force now in Congo and give the peacekeepers a broader mandate

to deploy to potentially volatile areas to deter the use of force, protect civilians "under imminent threat of physical violence," and seize illegal arms.

Annan said the additional personnel would improve the force's capabilities "which are severely under-resourced at the moment," but he was clearly disappointed that the council didn't approve a larger expansion.

In a report to the Security Council last month, he said the mission to peace in Congo is at "a critical juncture." He called for the U.N. force to be more than doubled to 23,900 troops and 507 international police to support the country's fragile peace process and move toward free elections in 2005.

After the council's 15-0 vote, the secretary-general said he still believes that a force of 23,900 "is the minimum required" to do the job and expressed hope that the council "will favorably" consider the full report at a later date. In the meantime, he said, the role of the expanded force in supporting the peace process will have to be re-examined in light of the new ceiling of 16,700 troops and police.

The famine relief group Oxfam expressed its dismay at the limited increase in peacekeepers. James Bot, Oxfam's country program manager for Congo, said in a statement: "Even for those troops that have been committed, it will take months to get them in place. Meanwhile, civilians are getting caught in the crossfire. We need the full contingent now."

The United States, Britain and France — which pay a significant chunk of U.N. peacekeeping costs — decided to significantly reduce the number of new troops.

The resolution extends mandate of the Congo mission, known as MONUC, until March 31 but stresses that the force's "strength and structure" will be reviewed regularly.

A June uprising in South Kivu launched the most serious military threat to Congo's transitional government since the end of the country's devastating 1998-2002 war that claimed more than 3 million lives and involved six African nations.



NAGALAND POST-AP

People walk by the site of a bomb blast at the railway station Saturday in Dimapur, India. Two powerful bombs exploded minutes apart at a crowded railroad station and a market on Saturday, killing 26 people and injuring 84, a government official said. More attacks took place later.

String of attacks kill 44 in India

BY WASBIR HUSSAIN

The Associated Press

GAUHAATI, India — A string of bombings and gun attacks on crowded markets, a railroad station and other sites killed 44 people and left dozens wounded in two northeastern Indian states plagued by separatist groups, police said.

Nine separate attacks took place in Nagaland and Assam states, both of which have faced campaigns by rebels seeking independence, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but Inspector-General Khagen Sarma, the top police official of Assam state, told The Associated Press he "cannot rule

out" the possible involvement of the outlawed National Democratic Front of Boroland, a tribal separatist group fighting Indian security forces in the region.

Sunday is the 18th anniversary of the militant group's founding.

The attacks occurred a day after Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, the state's top elected official, offered a truce to the rebels from Oct. 16 if they imposed a cease-fire by then.

The day began with two powerful bombs that exploded minutes apart in Nagaland, killing 26 and injuring 84, the state's Chief Minister Niphiu Rio told The Associated Press after visiting the sites of the attacks.

The first blast occurred in the

railway station in Dimapur, Nagaland's commercial hub, shortly before a train was to arrive from neighboring Assam state and at a time when the main platform was crowded with passengers, said C. Yanthan, a railway official.

That was followed soon after by a powerful explosion just as shopkeepers were opening up for business in the city's popular "Hong Kong" market, said C. Kuki, an inspector in the police control room.

Hours later, seven other attacks hit neighboring Assam state, leaving a total of 18 people dead.

The deadliest of the attacks was in the small town of Makri Jhoda bordering Bangladesh,

where unidentified gunmen sprayed shots at a crowded marketplace, killing 11 and injuring dozens, said local Superintendent of Police L.R. Bishnoi.

The assailants then killed four more people as they left the market, he said. Makri Jhoda is 12 miles west of Gauhati, the Assam state capital.

Two simultaneous explosions occurred in Assam's Bongaigaon town. Two people died in the first, a hotel was damaged but no one was hurt in the second.

In the town of Chirang near India's border with Bhutan, one man was killed and seven injured in another explosion, police said. Two other explosions took place in Balthata Chhali and Abhayapuri towns. No casualties were immediately reported.

Mourning over mosque attack turns violent in Pakistan

BY ASIF SHAHZAD

The Associated Press

SIALKOT, Pakistan — Mass mourning for victims of a suicide attack on a Shiite mosque that killed 31 people dissolved into violence Saturday, as youths rampaged through this eastern Pakistani city for a second day, burning a police station and the mayor's office.

Meanwhile, investigators questioned survivors of Friday's blast and sifted through the carnage at the Zainabia mosque in Sialkot for clues, but said it's not yet clear whether al-Qaida had a hand in the attack.

Hundreds of army troops and police commanders patrolled the streets, but initially struggled to contain rioting by youths that broke out after about 15,000 Shiite Muslim mourners had gathered for a mass funeral for victims of the bombing.

The rioters attacked the office of Mayor Mian Javed, but he was not inside at the time. They also burned a record room of a court, a police station and several motorcycles parked there. There were no reports of inju-

ries.

By late afternoon, security forces had brought the situation under control and the city was quiet.

The Pakistani government offered a reward of 10 million rupees (\$175,000) for information leading to the identity of the suicide bomber, as police searched for clues and questioned witnesses.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, and officials declined to speculate on who was responsible.

Police quoted witnesses as saying the attacker strode into the mosque carrying the bomb in a briefcase and the moment he opened it, it exploded, killing 16 people on the spot. Fifteen others died later.

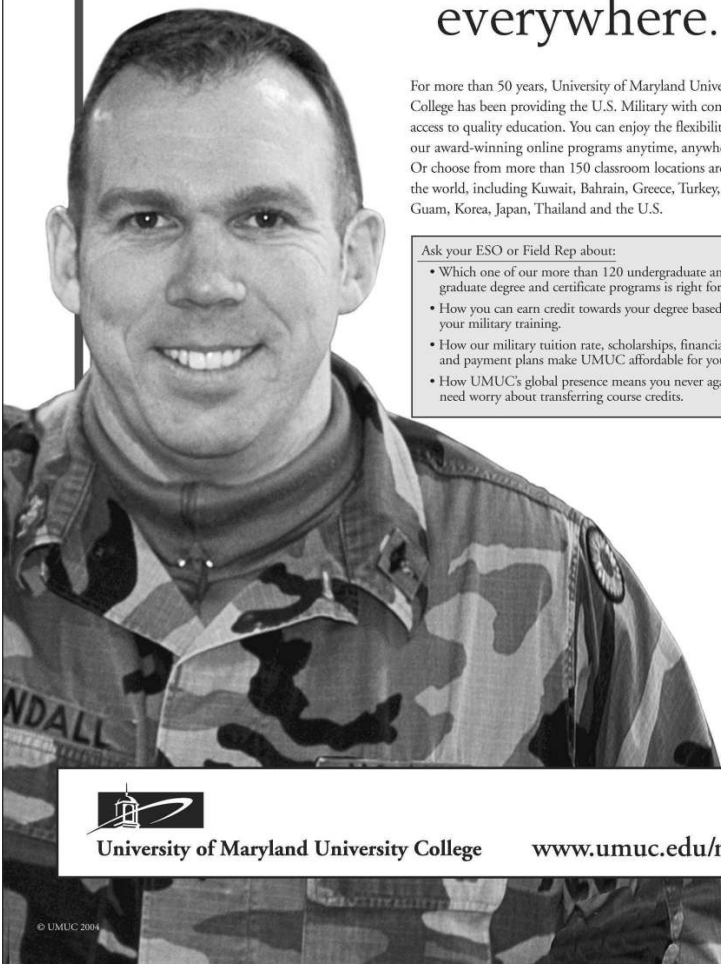
Interior Minister Atif Khan Sheerpo was quoted as saying by the state news agency that the attack may have been a reaction to the death of Amjad Hussain Farooqi, a top Pakistani al-Qaida operative and radical Sunni Muslim militant group leader who was killed by Pakistani security forces in a gunbattle a week ago.



AP

A Pakistani police officer walks by the burning mayor's office, which was set on fire by angry Shiite Muslims on Saturday, in Sialkot, Pakistan.

I am going for my degree because UMUC is everywhere.



For more than 50 years, University of Maryland University College has been providing the U.S. Military with convenient access to quality education. You can enjoy the flexibility of our award-winning online programs anytime, anywhere. Or choose from more than 150 classroom locations around the world, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Guam, Korea, Japan, Thailand and the U.S.

Ask your ESO or Field Rep about:

- Which one of our more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs is right for you.
- How you can earn credit towards your degree based on your military training.
- How our military tuition rate, scholarships, financial aid and payment plans make UMUC affordable for you.
- How UMUC's global presence means you never again need worry about transferring course credits.



University of Maryland University College

www.umuc.edu/military

Annan expects bold U.N. decisions in '05

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — World leaders returned to their capitals after the two-week U.N. General Assembly session with dozens of ideas on tackling terrorism, nuclear proliferation, poverty and other threats to global peace and security.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he is expecting some "bold decisions" when they come back for next year's meeting.

"We have reached a fork in the road," Annan warned the 191 U.N. member states. "If you, the political leaders of the world's nations, cannot reach agreement on the way forward, history will take the decisions for you, and the interests of your peoples may go by default."

It was the second year in a row his keynote speech has contained such comments and during the two-week session that ended Thursday, many leaders responded.

But as their debate showed, getting con-

More world stories on Page 18

sensus among 191 nations on a new global agenda and reform of the United Nations is going to be exceedingly difficult given the disparities and different priorities of rich and poor nations.

Algeria's U.N. Ambassador Abdallah Baali, the only Arab member of the U.N. Security Council, said the meeting, which drew more world leaders than usual, was surprisingly lively and "thought-provoking." That was because it didn't just focus on the two front-page crises, Iraq and Sudan, he said, but on U.N. reform and innovative ways to close the poverty gap and ensure the benefits of globalization don't bypass the world's poor.

The secretary-general plans to invite all world leaders to next year's General Assembly to review progress toward the goals they set at the Millennium Summit in 2000 —

most importantly to cut by half the number of people living in dire poverty by 2015 — and to make key decisions about how the United Nations and other institutions can best deal with the new threats to global security.

Baali said it was remarkable that nearly 100 heads of state and government showed up this year. U.N. officials and diplomats speculated they were drawn by concern about the decline in global security and out of conviction they must act in concert.

General Assembly spokesman Djibril Diallo said Friday that every country spoke during the debate except Somalia, with 121 nations addressing the issue of U.N. reform in general and 140 specifically addressing reform of the Security Council. In addition, many expressed concern at the slow pace in achieving millennium goals and improving the economic situation in Africa.

But it was also clear that developed and developing nations have different priorities and reconciling them will prove challenging. On Security Council reform, for example,

Japan, Germany, Brazil and India are jointly campaigning for permanent seats. China, already a permanent member, said developing countries should have priority. Libya said it deserves a permanent seat.

Responding to the deep divisions over the war in Iraq, Annan appointed a 16-member panel last November to determine the threats to global security and recommend how best to deal with them. Its report is due in December.

The secretary-general said he will consider the report of the Millennium Summit September to world leaders in the spring, in hopes they will arrive in New York next September ready to take action.

"It is a sad reality that the international networks of terror appear to cooperate more effectively among themselves than the democratic nations that they target," he said.



French president Jacques Chirac, right, talks as German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder looks on during a joint press conference Friday in Strasbourg, eastern France. Chirac said that the French should have a say in a referendum on whether Turkey is granted membership in the 25-member European Union. With Turkey making necessary improvements, there's not much the EU can do to block entry.

EU grudgingly moves toward admitting Turkey

BY ROBERT WIELAARD

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — On a fateful day in the Turkish capital in 1963, the head of the European Economic Community uttered words that have haunted Brussels bureaucrats ever since.

"Turkey," said Walter Hallstein, a German Christian Democrat, "is part of Europe."

With that, Turkey entered an association accord with the EEC — the forerunner of the European Union — and for the first time won a genuine prospect of joining Europe's elite club of nations.

It has been waiting ever since.

While many European leaders give an official blessing to Turkish accession — unable, perhaps, to come up with a convincing excuse to keep the mostly Muslim nation out — they have often worked behind the scenes to block Turkey's bid.

"In the 1960s, the EU accepted the idea of Turkish membership in a fit of absent-mindedness," says Heather Grabbe, deputy director of the Centre for European Reform, a London-based think tank.

Now, she says, it is being forced to absorb Turkey "grudgingly and with great misgivings."

Many European governments are terrified by the prospect of waves of immigration coming from a poor country with different cultural roots, a history of conflict with Europe, and a population that would likely be the largest in the EU by 2025.

Officials also fret that Turkey's large population will give it inordinate weight in the union's affairs. As the EU's biggest member, the country would also be on course to be the most influential in terms of votes.

By 2025, Turkey is projected to have a population of 90 million — against 82 million in Germany, 64 million in France and 63 million in Britain.

But under the conditions presented to Turkey for membership — a stable democracy, a free-market system, commitment to human rights — there is little Europe can do to brake Ankara's momentum as long as it continues to clear all hurdles.

This all means that come Oct. 6, the EU head office will likely declare Turkey ready to open membership talks, leaving it to the 25 EU leaders — who meet Dec. 17-18 — to set a 2005 date.

A recent EU-commissioned survey found a third of EU nationals favor Turkish membership, half oppose it.

Christian Democrats, the largest faction in the European Parliament that can veto the country's entry, tend to want a "special relationship," for Turkey, not full membership.

If nothing else, Turkey has been patient.

It first applied in 1987, then waited 10 years to be told no. In 1999, the EU declared it candidate, yet set no date for negotiations.

With the Turkish entry gradually becoming a concrete possibility, high-profile Europeans have become more vociferous in speaking out against Turkey.

Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, EU internal trade chief Fritz Bolkestein of the Netherlands and EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, an Austrian, have all predicted the end of the EU if Turkey gets in.

Britain's is in favor of the bid — but even there, things are not exactly as they appear: officials see Turkey's joining as a welcome dilution of Franco-German ambitions for "European Superstate."

Kenyan's body exhumed in rape inquiry of British soldiers

BY SAYYID AZIM

The Associated Press

ARCHER'S POST, Kenya — Kenyan and British investigators on Saturday exhumed the remains of a woman as part of a probe into allegations that British soldiers have raped hundreds of Kenyan women in a region used as a military training ground for three decades.

A London law firm is preparing a class-action suit against the British government in the name of women in two communities in a semi-arid region in north-central Kenya used by British troops for tropical training since 1972.

As part of a joint probe with Kenyan authorities, British military police have interviewed more than 2,000 women from the Maasai and Samburu tribes to ascertain the veracity of their claims, said Mark Norton, spokesman for the British High Commission, in a statement Thursday.

On Saturday, British and Kenyan investigators exhumed the body of a woman allegedly raped and killed by British soldiers nine years ago in the small town of Archer's Post, 227 kilometers (141 miles) northeast of Nairobi.

The investigators declined to speak to journalists who witnessed the exhumation.

A court in Nairobi last month granted a request by Kenyan police to exhumate the body of the woman, whom it identified as Mantia Kaunda.

Last year London law firm Leigh, Day and Co. began preparing a class action suit against the British Defense Ministry in the name of 650 women from Archer's Post and nearby Dol Dol.

The rape allegations began to surface when lawyer Martyn Day was investigating claims that unexploded British ordnance had killed and maimed hundreds of herders. In July 2002, the British government agreed to pay US\$8.4 million to 253 of those victims.

Out of 5,500 rape claims that the London lawyers compiled with the help of a Kenyan human rights group, they have accepted 1,100 — or 20 percent — as genuine.

In July 2003, the British government granted legal aid for 650 women represented by the firm in the class-action suit.



2004 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas

www.cfcoverseas.org



**Your campaign
begins
tomorrow...
4 October**

Support the charity of your choice.

Whether through service to your country or by supporting your favorite charity through the CFC-O, Americans respond when asked to help.

Please continue the tradition of giving by supporting charities that improve the quality of life in your neighborhood, our nation and around the world.

CFC-O GIVEAWAY

SUPPORT THE CFC-O AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE
2005 Jeep
Liberty Renegade



WWW.ENCS.COM

The only car-buying
program created by the
military for the military.
Look for us on base.

*Special thanks to Exchange New
Car Sales and DaimlerChrysler
for donating the FIRST PRIZE,
and to GEICO for donating the
SECOND and THIRD PRIZES.
CFC-O appreciates your support.*



The 2004 CFC-O is conducting a Giveaway as part of this year's campaign. By completing a pledge card, whether you donate or not, you are eligible to win. Winners will be randomly selected in March 2005 and notified by phone and/or in writing by the CFC-O. Enter now and win!

SECOND PRIZE
2 Airline
Tickets

THIRD PRIZE
\$1,000
Savings Bond

**GEICO
DIRECT**

Visit us at GEICO.com
for overseas locations
and phone numbers

In the U.S. call 1-800-947-AUTO

Give to the CFC-O and Make a World of Difference!

Spirited funeral

IN ST. JOHN — Ozella "Ozzie" McHargue's Christmas spirit was always evident — even at her holly, jolly funeral this week.

McHargue came up with the idea 17 months ago after being diagnosed with cancer. She said she didn't want depressing organ music at her funeral — she wanted songs like "Silver Bells" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

She got her wish.

The funeral home was decked with holly, wreaths, mistletoe, poinsettias and a Christmas tree decorated with ornaments from friends and family. McHargue was placed in a custom-made red and green casket for her wake Monday.

Ozzie, a widow who died Sept. 22 at age 67, always sprang to life around Christmas, her family said. She enjoyed Santa, Frosty and her favorite, the Grinch.

"Mom was always cheesy with the decorating, too. Things weren't done until they were overdone," said Kristy Hudd, who wore a Christmas tree pin on her blouse.

Grandparents busted

PA READING — A Luzerne County couple took two grandchildern with them when they drove to Reading to buy heroin, police said.

William R. Davis, 47, of Ebervale, was charged with heroin possession, child endangerment and other offenses. He was taken to Berks County Prison on \$25,000 bail following a preliminary hearing Monday.

His wife, Vicki A. Davis, 47, faces identical charges and remains free awaiting further court action.

The two were arrested around 12:30 a.m. June 17 after they were stopped on state Route 61 in Shoemakersville. Patrolman Michael A. Cardell testified that he found 149 packets of heroin and two syringes in the Davis' car after he stopped him for driving without a tail light.

Their grandchildren, ages 7 and 3, were in the back seat, investigators said. Police called the children's mother to pick them up.

Bold public proposal

OH COSHOCTON — Angela Clark made front-page headlines: "Rich Barker, will you marry me?"

Clark's proposal was published in the Coshocton Tribune on Saturday. Barker's answer, delivered to Tribune readers in Sunday's paper: "Yes."

Clark contacted the Tribune several weeks ago about proposing through the newspaper.

The proposal accompanied a photograph of Clark holding a box with a wedding band. Barker got the proposal, hidden in a box, during a family gathering for his 40th birthday at a restaurant.

"I've had a crush on him ever since I first saw him," Clark said.

It will be the second marriage for both. They plan to get married June 6, 2006.

Dog kills dog at show

MA DENNIS — A pooch named Rafferty probably won't get any "Best in Show" awards after it mauled and killed a terrier at a Cape Cod dog show.

Evelyn Galloway, 74, and her

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Yorkshire terrier named Libby had just performed at "Pooches on Parade" at the Dennis Senior Center on Thursday when Rafferty, a nearly 100-pound Bouvier des Flandres, attacked Libby and "picked her up like a rag doll," Galloway said.

Three people had to wrestle the four-pound terrier out of the jaws of the "service dog" owned by Autumn Daniels, of Dennisport, who uses a wheelchair.

An on-duty animal control officer heard the commotion and rushed to help. Libby was rushed to an animal hospital in Hyannis, but died about 30 minutes into surgery, Galloway told The Cape Cod Times. The show continued after the incident, according to dog owner Estelle Hill.

Cop jailed for dealing

TX HOUSTON — An ex-Houston police officer has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to dealing cocaine and marijuana while on duty and in uniform.

Gilberto Zertuche, 43, an 18-year police department veteran, was sentenced Monday.

He was charged with providing protection for a deal in which a kilogram of cocaine — 2.2 pounds — and 100 pounds of marijuana were exchanged at an apartment in Humble on Feb. 24, prosecutors said.

While Zertuche was neither a buyer or a seller, he oversaw the transaction, and helped weigh the drugs and count the money, said Assistant District Attorney Julian Ramirez.

"He was in uniform and he was putting at ease any fears that the drug dealers, which in this case were undercover cops, might have had that they were going to be robbed or that something was going to go down," Ramirez told the Houston Chronicle.

Face scanning

NC RALEIGH — North Carolina plans to begin scanning and digitizing the faces of people applying for or renewing driver's licenses, a measure officials said could help cut ID fraud and find suspected terrorists.

The face-recognition technology that goes into use at motor vehicle offices around the state Friday compares facial features with digital images in the agency's database to verify the identity of each applicant. The images will also be matched against those on federal terrorist watch lists.

The process uses computer software to define characteristics of each face being photographed for a license. Facial features measured by the computer include the distance between eyes, the width of the nose, the depth of eye sockets, and the location of cheekbones and the chin.

The measured features are then converted into a numerical code that can be read by computers that verify identity.

'Slow-moving billboard'

WI OSHKOSH — Why should elite athletes get all the big endorsement dollars and free stuff? That's what recently ran through the mind of Grace Lim, a back-of-the-pack marathon runner.

So Lim began asking for help — and got herself sponsored.

When the mother of two crossed the finish line Sunday at the Fox Cities marathon, the back of her shirt carried the name of a local company — Movin' Shoes Fox Valley — and a message that it's the store "Where everyone is No. 1."

She made her pitch in person to Movin' Shoes.

"I walked in and said, 'This is why you want to sponsor me: Customers are made of people like me — back-of-the-pack runners,'" she said.

She offered to be a "slow-moving billboard" for the specialty running store.

Pants on fire, and more

AR PINE BLUFF — A man who set fire to a pair of pants he thought his wife was wearing during an affair accidentally torched his mobile home and has been charged with arson, police said.

Officers said Leroy Brown, 19, perceived that his wife had been with another man, setting fire to the pair of pants, singing his fingers in the process.

Brown apparently dropped the pants after getting burned and the mobile home caught fire, detectives James Golden and Kelvin Hadley said.

Brown was detained on an arson charge after Tuesday's fire, pending a formal review by the prosecutor's office.



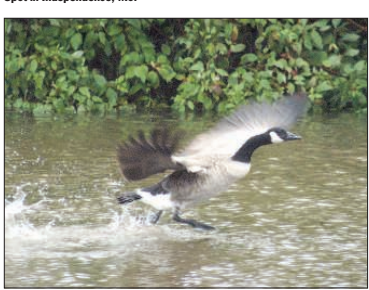
A nice catch

Chris Perkins, of Putney, Vt., holds a 12.77 pound rainbow trout shortly after having the fish weighed in Brattleboro, Vt. He caught the fish in the Wallomasc River in Bennington County.



Great wall of pumpkin

Reagan Herpich, 2, scales a pile of pumpkins at The Garden Spot in Independence, Mo.



Spreading out

A Canada goose lifts off from a lake along Conner's Point in Superior, Wis.



Tight fit Darrell Euson of Euson Movers measures the width of a bridge before pulling across it in rural Otoe County, Nebraska.



Remembering the fallen Bill Deane stands with an 8-foot-tall tree he made of copper outside his Papillion, Neb., home. Every leaf of the tree is engraved with a name of a U.S. or coalition soldier killed in Iraq.



Putting on a new coat Geoff Daley with Beynon Sports Surfaces uses a shovel to apply new surface on part of Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

Shootout over chicken

WV BLUEWELL — A family meal erupted into a gun battle after a father and son clashed over how to cook chicken.

The two men argued Sunday over the best way to prepare skinless chicken for dinner.

"It started out as a physical confrontation, but it escalated until both of them were shooting at each other," Detective Sgt. A.D. Beasley of the Mercer County Sheriff's Department said Monday.

Beasley said each man fired a .22-caliber handgun at the other.

Harley Shrader was struck by a bullet that went through the upper part of his right ear and lodged in the back of his head. He was treated at a hospital and released. The elder Shrader was not injured.

Jackie Lee Shrader, 49, was charged with malicious wounding and wanton endangerment. Harley Lee Shrader, 24, was charged with wanton endangerment.

Rapist to wed victim

IN SYRACUSE — A 38-year-old man has received up to three years in prison for third-degree rape, but his sentence will be postponed so he can marry his teenage victim.

Despite courtroom pleas Monday by his own lawyer and a lawyer representing his bride-to-be that the case shouldn't be prosecuted, Quinton Robinson, 38, of Syracuse accepted a plea bargain rather than go to trial.

Onondaga County Judge Joseph Fahey agreed to postpone sentencing until after Oct. 9, when Robinson plans to marry his girlfriend, who is now 19.

Robinson believed the girl, who was 16 when he moved in with her and her mother in 2002, was older, according to defense lawyer David Stanton.

Duct-taped pants

NY DUNLAP — The father of a seventh-grader claims an assistant principal came up with a bizarre way to keep his son's pants from sagging in school: duct tape.

Scott Allison told the Concord School Board earlier this month that his 12-year-old son, Spencer, was ordered by a teacher to lift his shirt after she noticed the boy's underwear was showing above his pants, a violation of Concord Junior High School's dress code.

He sent him to Assistant Principal Patricia Walters, who told Spencer to pull up his pants and tuck in his shirt, Allison said.

"She then proceeded to duct tape his waist, three times around the waist," said Allison. "Then she sent him back to class, in front of his peers."

"This outrages me and shocks me," Allison said.

School kitchen fails

TX DALLAS — The high school in the troubled Wilmer-Hutchins school district failed another kitchen inspection and students will continue to receive cold meals, officials said.

The meals are prepared off-campus and delivered in a refrigerated truck.

The latest inspection was Monday, conducted by Dallas County Health and Human Services officials.

Once the school notifies inspectors that violations have been corrected, health officials will revisit the campus for another inspection.

Also, the Texas Education Agency has sent the cash-strapped school district \$1.69 million to allow the district to pay teachers on Wednesday, officials said.

QVC stalker

PA WEST CHESTER — A man who pleaded guilty to stalking a QVC on-air personality agreed Monday to stay away from the woman and the shopping network's studios in eastern Pennsylvania.

Peter Ferreira, 41, was arrested May 18 and charged with misdemeanor counts of stalking and harassment. He was accused of sending e-mails to QVC on-air personality Lisa Robertson at the network and following her.

Ferreira followed her from the studios to her home and other locations, including a movie theater where he was "close enough to Robertson that he could smell the popcorn she was eating," according to an arrest affidavit.

He was sentenced to 132 days of time already served, and was released after Monday's hearing. He was to be driven back to his home in Connecticut.

Ford doesn't have to sell

FL SHALIMAR — A Panhandle judge says Ford Motor Co. can refuse to sell police cars to Florida law enforcement agencies that join a lawsuit against the automaker over fuel tank fires.

Circuit Judge G. Robert Barron has denied Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris' request that he order Ford to resume selling cars to his department. Ford has refused to sell any more Crown Victoria Police Interceptors to Morris since July 2003, a year after he filed suit.

The lawsuit claims the full-size, V-8 powered, four-door sedans have exploded in flames when struck from behind at high speed because of poor design, in some cases killing police officers. Last month, Barron granted class-action status, permitting hundreds of Florida law enforcement agencies to join the lawsuit. Barron says case law establishes a company's right to refuse to do business with any customer.

Possible bear hunt suit

MD HAGERSTOWN — Animal-protection advocates filed a lawsuit Monday seeking to block Maryland's first bear hunt in 51 years, which they said was the product of flawed science.

State wildlife managers proposed the hunt in February after more than a decade of debate. They have said the two-week hunt, which would be limited to 30 bears and would begin Oct. 25, will help contain an increasingly troublesome resident population of black bears.

Officials estimate the bear population has grown from about a dozen in 1956 to an estimated 500 today, concentrated mainly in the state's far western mountains.

The DNR said 2,383 people applied for the hunt, which will be restricted to a total of 200 hunters.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Beasts of burden find their athletic calling

Elephant polo slowly strides toward sporting legitimacy in Asia

BY VIJAY JOSHI
The Associated Press

HUA HIN, Thailand — With the crack of clashing mallets and the thump of jumbo feet shaking the earth, the game is under way.

Tense commands are shouted by pith-helmeted players tied firmly to their two-ton mounts. Very soon, there is a muddle in the middle.

The beasts collide and the ball disappears in a forest of elephantine legs, raising some dust and much laughter.

It's a classic scrum in the whacky sport of elephant polo.

It is not fast, it is not furious, yet it is as exhilarating — and as elitist as the equine sport that has inspired the jumbo version.

"It is almost like horse polo but in a very slow motion. But I can tell you it is much more difficult," said Raj Kalaan, a retired Indian army colonel and former horse polo player who is now a member of the Chivas Regal elephant polo team.

Kalaan was among the 55 players — including three former players from New Zealand's All Blacks rugby team, three Thai transvestites and professional horse polo experts — who gathered recently in the Thai beach resort town of Hua Hin for the annual King's Cup Elephant Polo tournament.

The 14-team round-robin tournament funded by Thailand's Mobile Esac defeating Australia's Sandalford Winery 6-4 in the final. Sandalford had produced the biggest upset of the tournament by beating two-time defending champion Mercedes Benz.

Kalaan, who trains horses on his farm outside New Delhi, India's capital, concedes many people probably think of elephant polo as quirky.



Thai transvestites from the team "Screwless Tuskers" (wearing pink) battle against the "DBS Bank Ladies" (wearing white) in a Sept. 12 match at the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament in Hua Hin, Thailand.

"But it is as competitive as any other sport. Once you are out in the middle, you want to win. It's not always easy," said Kalaan, a former presidential bodyguard and battle tank commander.

There is no question elephant polo takes skill. Try hitting an object slightly bigger than a tennis ball, while perched atop a be-

moth wielding a 6-foot-long bamboo hammer, or getting your lumbering steed to stop in full stride and turn around when you miss the ball, as players often do.

Connecting with the ball is no guarantee of a score. An opponent's elephant blocks a lot of space.

"Elephants are the smartest ani-

mals I have seen. They really understand that the ball needs to go or not go into the goal," said Oliver Winter, captain of the Mercedes Benz team. "Sometimes I think they enjoy the game more than we do."

Elephants, which once were the workhorses of Asia's myriad armies and later beasts of burden in the now-banned logging indus-

try, have lost much of their usefulness in the modern age.

Most domesticated elephants in Thailand are now reduced to begging on the streets, with the help of handlers. Winter and Kalaan say using them for sports keeps their intelligent brains stimulated.

Unlike horse polo, the elephant is not controlled by the player trying to hit the ball, but rather by a mahout, or handler, who sits on the animal's neck and directs its movements.

Younger elephants tend to be quicker and more agile in making a U-turn or backing up. But they also tend to be naughty, and are known to pick up the ball with their trunks in the middle of the game and lumber off — a foul.

The game is played on a field 100 yards by 60 yards, roughly one-third the size of a horse polo field. A game has two 7-minute halves — known as chukkas — with a 15-minute interval. Three elephants form a team.

The rules of the game have been drafted by the World Elephant Polo Association, which was set up in 1982 to stage annual games in Nepal. Since then, elephant polo tournaments have also been played in Sri Lanka. Thailand joined the ranks by hosting the inaugural King's Cup tournament in 2001 to raise money for conservation of its 1,500 wild and 2,500 domesticated elephants.

"When we started, we had just six teams and it was more of a weekend knock-round than a tournament," said Christopher Stadler, vice president of Anantara hotels and resorts, which organizes the annual King's Cup jamboree.

"Now, three years later, we have 14 teams plus a waiting list ... and the tournament is ranked as the sixth largest event on the Thai tourism calendar. Next stop the Asian games!"

Overseas GOP group's financial reports late

BY MORGAN LEE
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Republican activists abroad have waged an aggressive fund-raising campaign as an independent, nonprofit group with no limits on contributions, but they have not filed required reports on income and spending.

Both major parties are fighting for absentee votes from the estimated 7.1 million Americans living abroad — votes that could be crucial in a close election. Democrats and Republicans alike are lavishing attention on those voters through ads, Internet sites and visits by the candidates' relatives.

The two overseas operations used to work like state party committees, receiving funds from their national offices. The Democrats still operate that way. But nearly two years ago Republicans Abroad became a

"527," a partisan, nonparty group allowed to raise corporate, union and unlimited individual donations now barred for candidates and the national parties.

As a 527, the group is supposed to file quarterly reports on income and expenditures during election years.

Republicans Abroad hasn't done that since 2003, when it reported raising \$78,493 and spending \$41,617 in the first six months of that year.

A co-chairwoman for Republicans Abroad, Joan Hills, said the group got behind on paperwork after the departure of an executive director and planned to bring its disclosures up to date by Oct. 15, the deadline for third-quarter 2004 reports.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service's Web site shows the group hasn't reported for more than a year. IRS officials declined to comment on the missed reports or whether the

group had been sanctioned.

Those votes could be key. In 2000, Bush's election victory was certified only after the overseas ballots were counted. The Democratic National Committee has reported spending \$75,100 overseas since the last election in 2000, and the Republican National Committee reported it spent \$128,934 — not counting money raised overseas, according to the Center for Public Integrity in Washington.

There are also questions about some of the money being raised overseas.

At least one chapter of Republicans Abroad — in Germany — has solicited donations from foreigners, with the Web site asking for dues of 40 euros, or about \$50, and saying: "Membership is open to ALL individuals, regardless of nationality."

Federal law prohibits foreigners from making contributions in connection with a U.S. election. But IRS spokeswoman Nancy Mathis said nothing in the IRS code or tax law addresses the issue of whether a 527 can take foreign money to help pay for non-election activities.

Nun who inspired 'The Passion' may be on the road to sainthood

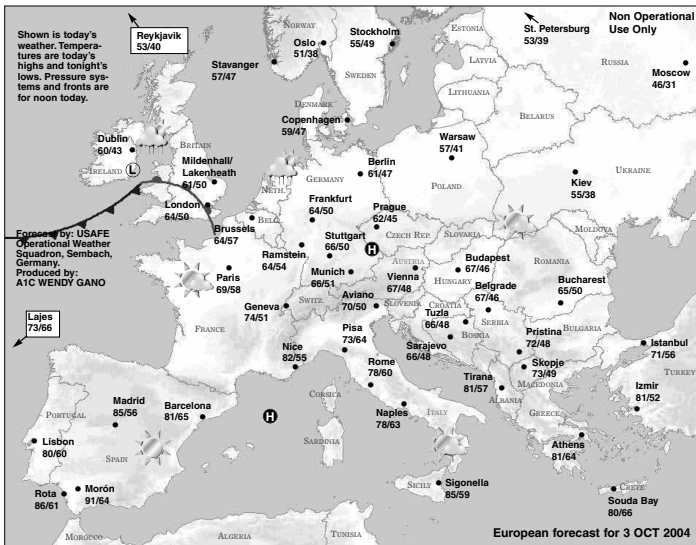
BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — For fans of "The Passion of the Christ," a different "star" of sorts linked to the hit film will get top billing on Sunday when Pope John Paul II honors a German nun said to have inspired Mel Gibson's shockingly graphic depiction of Jesus' final suffering.

Anna Katharina Emmerick's extraordinary empathy for the poor and suffering has placed her on the road to possible sainthood. But the beatification of Emmerick, a 19th century mystic who reported having detailed visions of the torturing of Christ, could irritate those already unhappy about the Vatican's enthusiasm for a film some called anti-Semitic.

In the early 1800s, Emmerick was an ailing, bedridden young nun known for nourishing herself solely on water and communion wafers and suffering from unexplained bleeding wounds resembling those Jesus Christ suffered during his crucifixion.

It was during that time that she is said to have had the visions that some say were recounted in the 19th century book which inspired Gibson's film. But the Vatican concluded that it is impossible to tell how much of the accounts of the visions contained in the book "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ" by German Romantic poet Clemens Brentano, came from Emmerick's recounting and how much came from other writings on the Passion he might have consulted.



KEY: Sunny Partly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy Cloudy Showers Tornadoes Rain Rain/Snow Snow Cold front Warm front Trough Occluded front Stationary front Low High

AFRICA

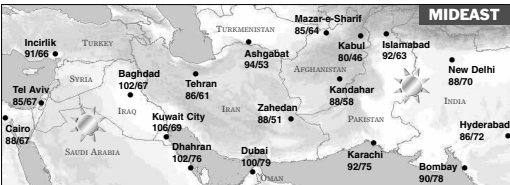
Cape Town	66	52	Mogadishu	81	70
Dakar	69	58	Nairobi	83	57
Freetown	86	74	Rabat	81	62
Khartoum	86	71	Tripoli	88	61

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	71	58	Manila	92	74
Beijing	64	52	Mexico City	70	55
Bombay	88	73	Montreal	65	41
Buenos Aires	83	71	Riyadh	100	72
Buenos Aires	82	73	Rio de Jan	79	70
Caracas	84	80	Saudi	68	49
Hanoi	84	41	Sofia	67	45
Hong Kong	84	72	Sydney	73	59
Lisbon	80	60	Tokyo	77	68

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alabama	78	60	Colorado	52	44
Alaska	72	42	Connecticut	52	44
Arizona	72	42	Delaware	52	44
Arkansas	66	44	Florida	52	44
California	66	44	Georgia	52	44
Colorado	52	44	Idaho	52	44
Connecticut	52	44	Illinois	52	44
Delaware	52	44	Indiana	52	44
District of Columbia	52	44	Iowa	52	44
Florida	52	44	Kansas	52	44
Georgia	52	44	Kentucky	52	44
Hawaii	52	44	Louisiana	52	44
Idaho	52	44	Maine	52	44
Illinois	52	44	Maryland	52	44
Indiana	52	44	Massachusetts	52	44
Iowa	52	44	Michigan	52	44
Kansas	52	44	Minnesota	52	44
Kentucky	52	44	Mississippi	52	44
Louisiana	52	44	Montana	52	44
Maine	52	44	Nebraska	52	44
Maryland	52	44	Nevada	52	44
Massachusetts	52	44	New Hampshire	52	44
Michigan	52	44	New Jersey	52	44
Minnesota	52	44	New Mexico	52	44
Mississippi	52	44	New York	52	44
Montana	52	44	North Carolina	52	44
Nebraska	52	44	North Dakota	52	44
Nevada	52	44	Ohio	52	44
New Hampshire	52	44	Oklahoma	52	44
New Jersey	52	44	Oregon	52	44
New Mexico	52	44	Pennsylvania	52	44
New York	52	44	Rhode Island	52	44
North Carolina	52	44	South Carolina	52	44
North Dakota	52	44	South Dakota	52	44
Ohio	52	44	Tennessee	52	44
Oklahoma	52	44	Texas	52	44
Oregon	52	44	Utah	52	44
Pennsylvania	52	44	Vermont	52	44
Rhode Island	52	44	Virginia	52	44
South Carolina	52	44	Washington	52	44
South Dakota	52	44	West Virginia	52	44
Tennessee	52	44	Wisconsin	52	44
Texas	52	44	Wyoming	52	44
Utah	52	44			
Vermont	52	44			
Virginia	52	44			
Washington	52	44			
West Virginia	52	44			
Wisconsin	52	44			
Wyoming	52	44			



MIDEAST

Baghdad	102/67	Tehran	86/61	Zahedan	88/51
Beirut	86/67	Tripoli	86/61	Yamouso	88/51
Cairo	88/67	Amman	88/51	Jerusalem	88/51
Damascus	88/67	Hezbollah	88/51	Qana	88/51
Haifa	88/67	Lebanon	88/51	Nablus	88/51
Jordan	88/67	Ramallah	88/51	Tripoli	88/51
Kuwait City	106/69	Saudi Arabia	88/51	Tripoli	88/51
Mosul	88/67	Turkey	88/51	Tripoli	88/51
Riyadh	88/67	Uman	88/51	Tripoli	88/51
Saudi Arabia	88/67	Yamouso	88/51	Tripoli	88/51
Tripoli	88/67	Zahedan	88/51	Tripoli	88/51
Yamouso	88/67			Tripoli	88/51

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain early in the morning and rain showers early in the afternoon. High in the mid 60s, Monday lows in the upper 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain showers in the afternoon and gusty wind. High in the lower to mid 60s, Monday lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with fog in the morning. High in the mid 60s, Monday lows in the upper 40s.

France: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 60s to lower 80s, Monday lows in the lower to upper 50s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain showers in the early morning. High in the lower to mid 60s, Monday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with fog and rain showers in the morning, and rain showers in the early afternoon. High in the mid 60s, Monday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 60s, Monday lows in the mid 40s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy. High in the lower 70s, Monday lows in the lower 50s to mid 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 70s to mid 80s, Monday lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with fog in the morning. High in the upper 60s to lower 70s, Monday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain and gusty winds. High in the lower to upper 50s, Monday lows in the upper 30s to upper 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. High in the lower 70s to lower 80s, Monday lows in the mid 50s to mid 60s.

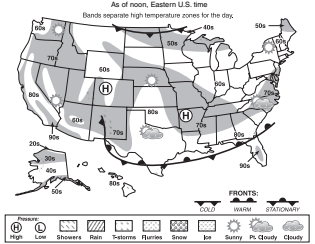
Turkey: Sunny to partly cloudy. High in the lower 70s to lower 80s, Monday lows in the lower 50s to mid 60s.

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:59 AM	Today	6:59 AM	Tomorrow	6:59 AM
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:25 AM	Today	7:25 AM	Tomorrow	7:25 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:47 PM	Today	6:47 PM	Tomorrow	6:47 PM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:59 PM	Today	6:59 PM	Tomorrow	6:59 PM

New Moon Oct 3 First qt Oct 10 Full Moon Oct 17 Last qt Oct 25

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to

ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES

Your HomeTown Newspaper

YOUR MONEY

Letter will make last wishes clear when you can't

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week, Cmdr. Brown talked about estate planning.

"Can anyone tell me the three estate planning documents everyone should have?"

Evelyn raised her hand. "Will, durable power of attorney and medical directive."

"Exactly," the commander said. "Remember always make an appointment with your base legal to go over these documents. This discussion is only a review."

"A will — or our personal declaration of where we want everything to go after we are gone — should instruct our executor of our last wishes including:

- Where to distribute or dispose of our belongings.
- Who takes care of our minor children.
- Your wishes for funeral arrangements.

"To help your executor sort out your estate, I also recommend including an informal letter of instruction along with your will telling your executor about the location of your personal property and documents binder; the location of any valuables, jewelry and other family treasures; and a list of those individuals that should be notified after your death. This letter will save your executor much effort."

"You mentioned durable power of attorney," a lieutenant asked. "What is the difference between a power of attorney and a durable power of attorney? I gave my wife a power of attorney to sell our house when I left early from my last duty station."

"You are talking about a specific power of attorney for a specific item with a specific time period," Brown replied. "The durable power of attorney is different. In general, the durable power of attorney appoints somebody to take care of your affairs if you are unable — up to the time you die — and does not have a specific time limit."

"Your durable power of attorney is normally invoked if you are physically or mentally incapable of taking care of yourself. The per-

son appointed by your durable power of attorney uses it to act as if they were you, for everything: to care for your family, pay bills, manage your investments, maintain your home and car, and anything else that needs to be done. It is important that you understand that the durable power of attorney lasts until you regain your health or when you will take over after you die. Pick your personal representative carefully for your durable power of attorney."

"Finally, your medical directive instructs your doctors of your medical-treatment wishes if you cannot give instructions yourself."

"Can't my spouse just decide how I want to be medically treated?" the lieutenant asked.

"Yes," Brown replied. "If you don't have a medical directive, the doctors will follow your wife first for guidance. But don't leave any room for interpretation. Write your treatment wishes down."

"Can you give us an example?" I asked.

"Yes, here are many scenarios," Brown replied. "My medical directive spells out how I want to be treated by my doctors in certain serious situations, such as comas. If I am in a coma for a long period, I don't want heroic measures taken to keep me alive. I worked hard over the past 15 years to build my estate for my family, and I don't want my family's finances to be wiped out by catastrophic medical bills. A written medical directive spells out my wishes clearly."

"Now let's take a quick five-minute break before we discuss executor duties and then government benefits. This executor stuff is heavy. A break will help clear your minds."

Everyone stood up and stretched. Several people left the room for some fresh air.

Next week, Cmdr. Brown goes over the MPCP's personal and legal topics.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at www.masterplan.com. This article is written and the book is sold by the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, either personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is finance@stripes.osd.mil



Ralph Nelson



AP photos

From left, customers Kumiko Takahashi, Shizuyo Sakabe and Midori Abe examine a Coach bag at one of the New York-based company's 100-plus outlets around Japan on Sept. 16.

Coach pushes European big-names out of Japan

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Walking down a street in Japan, it doesn't take long to spot women clutching Coach bags.

Coach, the New York-based maker of fine leather goods, is succeeding where other American companies have struggled, winning over finicky Japanese customers who have long preferred European and home-grown brands.

With more than 100 retail outlets in Japan, Coach's sales here tripled over the past three years to about 30 billion yen, or about \$270 million, and business in Japan now makes up more than a fifth of its global sales.

Japanese buyers are passionate about the leather and fabric bags and totes.

"I've always wanted a Coach bag," said Akiko Yamaguchi, a university student visiting a Coach store with her mother, who bought two bags for her daughter's 20th birthday. "I'd like to buy lots more if I can."

Coach is so popular that, at the recent opening of its store in the northern city of Sapporo, dozens of women lined up to be among the first to set foot in the shop.

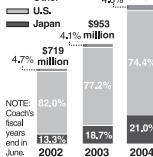
Known for its craftsmanship, Coach is now the No. 2 imported bag and accessory brand in Japan in sales, just trailing France's Louis Vuitton, a favorite here for decades. Coach sells in department stores around the country, and it has four flagship boutiques totally devoted to its products, with two more opening this year.

"We have a unique brand proposition. We are an accessible luxury accessories brand in which we offer extremely well-made prod-

Coach's new bag

Bag manufacturer Coach Inc. has nearly doubled its annual revenue over the past two years due in large part to the company strengthening its foothold in Japan.

Geographic distribution of Coach revenue



SOURCE: The company

AP

ucts that are relevant to Japanese consumers' lifestyles at very attractive prices," Coach chief executive Lew Frankfort said during a recent visit to Tokyo. "We think the opportunities are abundant."

Coach keeps prices down by maintaining low-cost suppliers and producing the bags in Chinese plants where workers are trained and supervised by Coach to maintain quality.

Still, the bags are not cheap, giving them the luxury-goods aura Japanese shoppers demand. A Coach tote costs about \$700, but smaller bags cost about \$400.

It also has helped Coach that the Japanese culture is brand-conscious. Being out of touch with what's hip is potentially embarrassing in Japan, and even costly for your career.

The brand loyalty of Japanese often backfired on many American companies trying to break into the market here, although the Gap retail chain, Coca-Cola and Disneyland have been huge hits. Ford Motor Co., Burger King, Gateway and Dunkin' Donuts haven't found Japanese buyers as welcoming.

"Coach is a case study in cracking the Japan luxury market," said Naomi Moriyama, president of New York-based The Moriama Group, a marketing consulting firm. "Coach is winning in Japan because of intensive consumer research, superb product quality and customer service, stunning new stores and a constant flow of new products."

Moriyama said Japan is filled with serious "power-shoppers," who see collecting brands as critical for status and self-expression.

Stuck in cramped homes, Japanese tend to splurge on things like bags rather than larger goods like furniture. A Japanese woman spends four times her American or European counterpart on accessories, according to Coach.

Coach stores have huge glass walls to send that "accessible luxury" message. And the doors are open, unlike some of the European brands that exude exclusivity with doormen guarding the entrance.

But it's not just the cachet that has won over Japanese shoppers. The same qualities that have appealed to Americans are luring consumers here.

"The leather on Coach bags is so soft, and the designs aren't as cluttered as other brands," said Shizuyo Sakabe, a 47-year-old housewife, who owns a Coach bag and wallet.

"She summed up the feelings of many others: 'I love Coach.'"

Sunday Horoscope

OCTOBER 3, 2004 Venus glides into the discerning realm of Virgo, where she'll be until Oct. 28. The beautiful planet gets a kind of cosmic line-up in Virgo, like the well-tended woman's day at the spa. Beauty, after all, comes with the cost of maintenance. This is the perfect time to zero in on what needs attention in regards to physical appearance and inner beauty.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 3). You're prolific and will fill the world with your works this year. The person you align yourself with is the single most important factor to what you experience this month.

So stand with the big winners. Adventure is featured in November. Be willing to travel far to get what you need. Career goals are met in January. Your heart is full in the love news. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 45, 53 and 12.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Heated situations crop up, and you seem to be in the center of the excitement. Your opinion is very different from that of others around you, so be aware of when you're stirring up controversy. Break your own rules tonight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Horizons are featured, but you have to seek them and be willing to go when called. Be open to unexpected gifts, skepticism aside. Some-one wants nothing more than to share his or her happiness about life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you're away from observing people, you're in heaven. Kick back, and take care of yourself. Notice subtle patterns in your emotions and in your health. This helps you get into the peak performance zone when you need to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This is a day for doing something out of character — like maybe dreaming of distant shores. There are so many beautiful places in the world you've yet to experience. Make a list, and start planning your travels.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People who make you feel comfortable are your favorite companions. You feel the pressure to put on airs or even

be fabulously entertaining? Treat everyone equally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Service is high on the ladder of spirituality, and you find fulfilling ways to make yourself useful now. Loved ones may seem to be miles away, but their thoughts will return to you this evening. Expect nothing, and you get everything.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Collecting data and being a fast learner are the orders of the day. You'll get something valuable from being invisible in a situation tonight — your fly-on-the-wall status is much better than being the center of attention could ever be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Fit your mind with pleasant thoughts about others. Though you're a master of intrigue, you wouldn't want to be accused of being emotionally unavailable, would you? Deep connections are forged with open communication tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a chance to be experienced, but it's not obvious. Research the newspaper's entertainment section.

You may have to drive to the next town! It's worth it if you're pursuing high-minded activities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You hold an honored place among family. You can gain your position by refusing to engage in gossip without making the offending party feel guilty. Tonight brings the chance to give recognition and accept responsibility.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you have less in common than ever with an old friend, it's still important to keep in touch. The feeling of connection you get keeps you in tune with all humanity.

Also, being a little sentimental softens your thoughts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your quality of life comes into question. You'll peek through a window into the future. Do you see what you see? If not, now's your opportunity to do something about it.

Your digestion is delicate tonight — stick to "safe" foods.

Creators Syndicate

Origins of 'shaggy-dog' stories

There are two basic kinds of shaggy-dog stories: long drawn-out circumstantial story concerning an inconsequential happening that impresses the teller as humorous but the hearer as boring and pointless, or a similar humorous story whose humor lies in the pointlessness or irrelevance of the punch line.

Of course, such stories have probably been around since language began, but they weren't known as shaggy-dog stories until about 1946.

It appears that shaggy-dog stories got their name from one such popular story, or perhaps more than one, which featured a shag-

gy dog.

A man in London (or Scotland) is looking to buy a very shaggy dog (or he's lost his own). He advertises in the London Times, and a man from New York (or Montreal or Australia), after searching high and low, believes he has found just the dog. After enduring a long and complicated journey, the man arrives with the dog, only to have the man who advertised slam the door in his face, muttering "Not that shaggy!"

This column was prepared by the Ann-Marie Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's WordWatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Third time with girlfriend probably will not be charm

Dear Abby: I met "Monique" six years ago and immediately fell hard for her. We dated for about a month.

At the time, she was also seeing someone else. Then one night Monique called me and said she was only going to date one guy, and it wasn't me.

Three and a half years later, she called me one of the blue and said she wanted to see me again. I was thrilled. We dated for a month, then Monique told me she didn't want to have a relationship. I was hurt again.

Seven months later, my phone rang. It was Monique saying she wanted to see me. She came over and we should get married because her daughters need to live in a better neighborhood.

It has now been more than a year. Monique says she loves me and wants commitment. She is 30 and has been divorced three times. I love her, but the way she treated me in the past makes me question whether I should trust her. Should I throw caution to the wind and propose anyway?

Crazy About Her
in Mobile, Ala.

Dear Crazy About Her: No Pay attention to her missivings.

They are the voice of your intuition trying to warn you. If you are determined to marry her, do not propose without first having consulted a lawyer and drafting a prenuptial agreement. I won't save you from the risk of heartache, but it could save you from economic disaster later on.

Dear Abby: I am in my 70s. My wife and I live in a house across the street from two middle-aged ladies.

Recently some limbs from one of their trees fell onto their lawn, so I went into their yard to remove them. Rather than welcoming my help, they were upset that I went into their yard without being invited.

Abby, I was raised to help ladies, especially those living alone. I was taught that when help was needed to fix a flat tire or to do some heavy lifting, to step forward without being asked. Has the world changed so much that I was off base in doing this? We live in a small neighborhood where most people help each other and get along well. However, their reactions really bothered me.

— **Hurt Neighbor, Coweta, Okla.**

Dear Hurt Neighbor: You weren't off base; you are a gentleman of the old school. Your neighbors, however, may have been raised to be independent and not to rely on a man's help for anything.

Feeling as they do, they should have posted a "No Trespassing" sign on their property. However, now that you know what they feel about their "urf," don't go into their yards unless invited — if then.

Dear Abby: I have a short-sleeved red "church" dress. What color shoes should I wear with it? It's almost impossible to find a red shoe that matches. Should I wear black or tan/taupe?

— **Kimmie in Auburn, Ala.**

Dear Kimmie: During the spring and summer, accessorizing with red shoes would be attractive. In the winter, accessorizing with black would be acceptable. Or take your dress to your shoe repair shop and ask if a pair of your shoes could be dyed to match it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

Quiet husband keeps his wife in the dark about latest news

Dear Annie: I have been married for over 25 years to the same man.

"Phil" has never been much of a talker, but for the past year or two, he's told me nothing at all. And I do mean nothing. People have passed away, and I would find out from the newspaper.

Of course, if someone has a problem at his job or with a family member, Phil never tells me if he spoke to them or not.

When I see him, I see a person in question, I'll be told about the confrontation and the great advice Phil gave. Of course, I look totally stupid.

I am tired of being kept in the dark about my husband's thoughts, relationships and day-to-day existence. I tell Phil everything because he is my partner and I respect his opinion. He, on the other hand, has no problem saying "I love you," that he confides in the dog more than me.

Any ideas on what to do?
— **Frustrated in Denver**
Dear Denver: Since this is a

fairly recent development, it's possible Phil's memory isn't as retentive as it used to be. By the time he sees you, he's probably forgotten these episodes. Would it help to prod him a bit? ("Did you run into anyone we know today?")

Either way, you ought to mention to Phil how much this bothers you, and ask him to try harder to keep you in the loop. If that doesn't help, we advise letting it slide. If friends are surprised that you didn't know something, simply say, "Oh, you know Phil. He must have forgotten to tell me."

Dear Annie: I had to respond to "Seeking Some Peace and Quiet," who complained that her neighbor "Mrs. Jones" calls for her cat quite loudly at all hours of the day and night. My neighbors could have written that letter, because my name is Mrs. Jones and I do the same thing. I call my cat loudly and often.

I am a considerate neighbor, but I wouldn't stop calling my cat for anyone. The only safe place for my cat overnight is in my house.

These same neighbors would undoubtedly complain if the cat was in their yard, leaving paw prints on their cars or digging at their plants. You'd think they would be happy to have me call him.

I don't become angry with my neighbors when they rev their engines early in the morning or blow their leaf clippings in the street, or when their teenagers noisily stroll in at 2 a.m.

Considerate neighbors tolerate the little things, but anything that bothers them is quick with a smile and slow to call the police.

— **Also Seeking Peace in West Chester, Pa.**

Dear Seeking Peace: Yes, neighbors should try to tolerate the little things, but anything that bothers your neighbors during the night after night, is not a "little thing."

If you are doing that, please start calling your cat home earlier in the evening so that you aren't hollering out the windows at midnight. Everyone will be grateful.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher
THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe
LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commander

News and Editorial

DAVID MACZELLA, Associate Editor
DAVID CLARKSON, Managing Editor
ROBB GRINGSTAFF, Associate Editor
JAN AMERSON, Europe Bureau Chief
SCOTT BENNETT, Middle East Bureau Chief
JOE GROMELER, Electronic Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
Sharon Olson, News Peter Phillips, Photo Graphics
Brian Bowen, Features Sean Moore, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO 09211
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim,
Germany
FAX: (408) 849-8416; or (449) (0) 6155/601416
E-MAIL: News: news@mail.strips.com
Letters: letters@mail.strips.com
CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC
20045-1301, Phone (202) 751-0990 or fax (202) 751-0990
FAX: (202) 751-0990 or fax (202) 751-0990
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Maczella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite
350, Washington DC 20045-1301, Phone (202) 751-0945 or
fax (202) 751-0945
E-mail: maczella@strips.com; dmaczella@strips.com
OMBOUSMAN: Jan Amerson, Send comments to Ombudsman, Stars
and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC
20045-1301, Phone (202) 751-0945 or fax (202) 751-0945
or e-mail: ombudsman@strips.com; jama@strips.com

How to call us

Letters: DSN 349-8323; or (449) (0) 6155/601237
Editor: DSN 349-8400; or (449) (0) 6155/601400
Sports: DSN 349-8225; or (449) (0) 6155/601225
Advertising: DSN 349-8437; or (449) (0) 6155/601437
Advertising: DSN 349-8335; or (449) (0) 6155/601335

News Bureaus

GERMANY (country code +49)
Bamberg: Rolf Eppert, 27908 Eppert, Unit 27355, Box 2541, APO
AE 09211, Phone (49) (0) 951/36896; fax (49) (0) 951/36896;
fax (49) (0) 951/36896
E-mail: eppert@mail.strips.com
Bamberg: Terry Boyd, 27908 Eppert, APO AE 09034, tel. DSN
485-6088; or (49) (0) 6783-0077; e-mail: tboyd@mail.strips.com
Darmstadt: David Daugherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211, tel. DSN
349-8406; or (49) (0) 6155-601406
E-mail: daugherty@mail.strips.com; Ward Sandersen, Unit
29480, APO AE 09211, tel. DSN 349-8325; or fax (49) (0) 6155-601225
E-mail: ward@mail.strips.com
Heidelberg: Pauline, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211, tel. DSN 349-8237; or
(49) (0) 6155-601237; e-mail: pauline@mail.strips.com
Heidelberg: Pauline, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211, tel. DSN 349-8237; or
(49) (0) 6155-601237; e-mail: pauline@mail.strips.com
Kaiserslautern: Stephanie, Main McCreary, APO AE 09217-3177,
tel. DSN 632-6538; or fax (49) (0) 631-6744; e-mail: steph@mail.strips.com
Stuttgart: John C. Cope, 4000 Cope, APO AE 09107-9465,
tel. DSN 612-2888; or fax (49) (0) 7129-2888; e-mail: johncope@mail.strips.com
Wehring: Steve Lerner, Unit 350-6508 or fax (0931-467-7001),
tel. (0931) 467-7007; e-mail: lerner@mail.strips.com
Ariano/Vesuvio: Kent Harris, tel. DSN (314) 632-7652; or fax (39) (0) 846-7652; second line DSN (314) 632-4222; or fax (39) (0) 846-4222; e-mail: harris@mail.strips.com
Naples: James Chudy, PSC 818, Box 56, FPO AE 09619, tel. DSN
626-9157; or fax (49) (0) 846-9157; fax (39) 082-626-9150; or
fax (39) (081) 568-5106; e-mail: chudy@mail.strips.com

SPAIN

Rola: Scott Schouwer, PSC 818, Box 1, FPO AE 09645, tel. DSN
727-1099; or fax (49) (0) 846-1099; fax (39) 727-1034; or
fax (39) (085) 82-1034
E-mail: schouwer@mail.strips.com

ITALY

Torino: Stars and Stripes, Operation Joint Forge, APO AE 09789, tel.
DSN 00387-61-1357; fax (49) 611-1357; e-mail: torino@mail.strips.com

UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: Rafe Mildenhall, 10555 Rafe, Building 465, ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall,
APO AE 09459, tel. DSN 258-4668; or fax (44) (0) 1636-544668; fax (44) (0) 1638-718013
E-mail: jensen@mail.strips.com

WASHINGTON D.C.

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Wash-
ington DC 20045-1301, tel. (202) 751-74-0899;
E-mail: dickson@strips.com
Sandra Kentz and Lisa Burgess, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Wash-
ington DC 20045-1301, tel. (202) 751-0945; fax (202) 751-0945;
or fax (202) 751-0945

Printed in Italy by Edizione Telepiemonte

Stars and Stripes (ISSN 0172-2) is published daily (except Christmas
and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes
central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Peri-
odicals postage paid at Washington, DC. Postmaster: Send address changes to
European Stars and Stripes, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211.
© European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of De-
fense for the official views of the Military Services overseas. However, the con-
tents of the STARS and STRIPES are not necessarily the official views of the
Department of Defense or the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government. The STARS and STRIPES may be distributed through official
channels and use appropriate forms for distribution to remote and isolated
locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.
The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or
pages, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of De-
fense or the STARS and STRIPES of the products or services advertised.
Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made avail-
able for purchase, sale, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion,
sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affilia-
tion, or any other common factor of the purchase, sale, or patronage.
STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

Germans are hard-working

I am a civilian living and working in Germany for 30 years now.

After serving in the Army 18 years in Germany, I can tell you that Lt. Col. Ralph Peters' overview of the German working man's views and actions over the years are correct. But I have to disagree with his assessment of German workers on our bases being "lazy, arrogant and corrupt."

The German workers on Warner Bar-
racks in Bamberg are the most hard-
working and dedicated people I
have ever had the pleasure to work with.
They truly like working for us and, like
the rest of us, manage to do a lot with
very little.

Douglas M. Stewart
Bamberg, Germany

Retirement for reservists

In response to the Sept. 25 Military Up-
date column, "GAO Promotes Drop in Re-
serve Retirement Age": Of course the Gov-
ernment would never approve spending
more money unless there was something
to gain for itself.

As the article states, only 1 in 4 reserv-
ists serves long enough to retire. Most
people today feel that waiting until you
re 60 to get any gains is not a good in-
vestment of time. They could find part-
time jobs with larger companies to
supplement their income, and invest in
the company to leave larger returns soon-
er.

The compensation that reservists/National
Guardians receive while de-
ployed is the very same the active duty re-
ceive. Don't get me wrong, the active
duty does an outstanding job. But how
does the Department of Defense justify
saving money on shifting skills back to
the active duty? Instead of paying some-
one for a weekend of work, they are pay-
ing someone 365 days a year to do the
same job.

As the writer of "Army's 'redheaded
stepchild'" (letter, Sept. 26) stated, re-
servists and Guardsmen are looked at as

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on
editorials and columns that are published in the
newspaper, and values letters on topics of im-
portance in the lives of our readers. All letters must
be signed, and must include the writer's address
or base and telephone number. Please limit all
letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit
letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: Stars and Stripes
Unit 29480
APO AE 09211
International mail: Stars and Stripes
Postfach 1330
64345 Griesheim

Via fax: (country code +49) (0) 6155/601395;
DSN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mail.strips.com

stepchildren. We have to follow the same
rules, go through the same training, yet
our promotion process is a nightmare. If
there isn't a slot for you to be promoted
into, you will never be promoted.

One thing the government doesn't see is
that the Guard/Reserve brings some-
thing to the playing field that the active
duty may not. Most, if not all, Guard/Re-
serve have full-time jobs. We do every-
thing and anything. That experience
comes in handy when trying to build up a
bare base or operate equipment that is
rarely used by active duty.

I'm sure the Government Accountabil-
ity Office would give a better look at up-
ping the retirement benefits for
Guard/Reserve if their positions weren't
being filled, and the sons and daughters
of government officials were being draft-
ed and deployed to fill in for the missing
redheaded stepchild.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Doyle

Balad, Iraq

Google maps discovery

"Let's go googling!" shouted my brain
cells to my fingertips when I read "Bene-
dict Arnold and Kerry" (Sept. 23).

I typed in "Benedict Arnold and John
Kerry" and hit enter. Guess what, folks?

Those aren't Michael J. Lesinski's origi-
nal words or thoughts. And he didn't
quote any sources. Similar wording of
the same facts are written in that same
tone all over the Web.

My Google-happy friends didn't stop
there. I just had to check
www.benedictarnold.org for a biography
about General Arnold. I also checked bio-
ographies of John Kerry and George W.
Bush. I discovered many things that
John, George and Benedict have in com-
mon.

■ John and George are ninth cousins,
twice removed, according to a wealth of
Web sites.

■ George was born in New Haven,
Conn.

■ John was born in Aurora, Colo.
■ Benedict was born in Norwich,
Conn.

■ Prescott Bush (George W.'s grandfa-
ther) had property seized for trading
with the enemy in October of 1942. That
was an act of treason.

■ Benedict, after becoming disgusted
with our alliance with France and being
accused of several petty offenses, allied
himself with the British.

■ George has allied himself with the
British.

So what should I think? Why not try
<http://factcheck.org>? I love this site. It
is a nonpartisan "smackdown" site. It sepa-
rates the campaign lies from the truth.

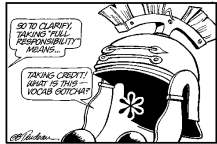
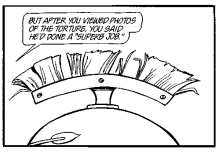
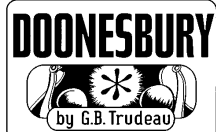
My fingers fly as I type "John Kerry
and Benedict Arnold" once again.
Factcheck has nothing on that, but there
are pages of hits. Guess what those hits
reveal? Yep, you guessed it. Both Kerry
and Bush have misleading campaign ads.
What a shock.

I reel in disgust. My mind boggles
from the googling. Politicians mislead?
People use other people's words and
don't credit the source? What are we
going with this election campaign (and
why am I in this handbasket)?

Finally, I decide to return to reality by
visiting <http://casualties.org/off/>.
It brings the important issue clearly into
focus for me. The "11" stands for Iraq.

Marsha Vilt

Hockenheim, Germany



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Hill can only muster bluster The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

Focus! That is the one-word message of advice that citizens wanted to send to members of Congress at the end of last month. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate looked as if they are having trouble seizing and acting upon the issues that are most important to the nation.

But the [Republican-controlled] House also passed a strange measure having to do with the Pledge of Allegiance. It would prevent the federal courts from ruling against including the phrase "under God" in the pledge.

Three problems: First, since there is nothing coercive about reciting the pledge, no broad legislation is justified. Second, it strikes us as unconstitutional for Congress to try to limit the purview of the courts in this way. It is a very serious matter to deny people who believe this or that thing their day in court.

Finally, there is a bit of cynical politics at play here. That is, majority leaders in the Senate (also Republican) have no plans to take up the pledge resolution, this isn't going to become law. This allows House members a "free vote" on a social issue that is important to some people. In a sense, all government is a bit of a con game, but we'd be more comfortable if members of Congress had a healthier respect for the separation of powers that the founders put into the Constitution.

Prepare touch-screen Plan B The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Americans will have to hold their collective breath and hope for minimal voting problems on Nov. 2. Four years after the Florida voting fiasco, our ability to ensure a smooth, accurate election count leaves much to be desired.

No election can be conducted without potential for error or fraud. ... New problem arise, though, as we move forward. Touch-screen voting must have a paper trail, so recounts can be conducted.

[Washington] Secretary of State Sam Reed wisely has ordered paper records for the 2006 election. Congress has so far failed to follow suit on the federal level.

A host of other ideas has arisen, including having large stacks of paper ballots available at all polling places in case of machine problems.

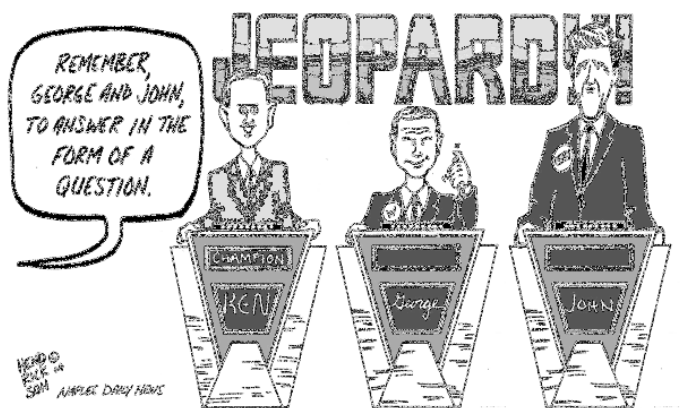
Secrecy ought to disappear from the systems for testing software in voting machines. ... There must also be a serious look at the legitimate questions raised about political advertising on voting-machine manufacturers and Republicans.

RICO not suave move here The Daily Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Iowa

The federal government seems willing to use any tool it takes, even an illegitimate one, to crush tobacco companies. What many may applaud the fact, they shouldn't.

What is going on right now is a \$280 billion suit that could bankrupt the tobacco industry—or at least major segments of it—if the Justice Department is successful. The tool of choice is the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, a loosely framed, gotcha piece of legislation adopted in 1970 to ease the way of cops and prosecutors in putting mobsters behind bars.

Should tobacco companies now have to dread it, too? No one can argue that the duplicitous behavior of some tobacco executives was anything but reprehensible. But the reprehensibility of Big Tobacco does not



IN ANTICIPATION OF VIEWER APTITUDE, THE NETWORKS HAVE DECIDED TO PRESENT THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES IN A NEW FORMAT.

entitle the government to use a bad law that was intended for something else entirely to wreck the industry.

When the government abuses its powers in an instance like this and gets away with it, every institution, every person is more at risk; legal safeguards have been diminished for everyone. Clearly, the end does not justify the means.

Meet hopefuls' talking points The Press and Sun Bulletin, Binghamton, N.Y.

The 2004 presidential debates began Thursday, which means the spotlight is on Judd Gregg and Gregory Craig.

Who? Gregg, a New Hampshire senator, is the stand-in for Sen. John Kerry at President Bush's Texas ranch. He previously impersonated Al Gore during Bush's preparations for the 2000 debates.

Craig, an lawyer on President Clinton's impeachment defense team, stood in for Bush during Sen. Kerry's predebate practices in Wisconsin.

The two role-players are part of large debate "teams," of course — people who are trying to make their candidates look good and sound good for the debates. Some of them are experts in style; others in substance. Gregg and Craig are trying to give the candidates some sense of what their opponents may say or do during the course of the discussion.

The debates are so over-rehearsed that spontaneity is rare, but they remain worthwhile exercises in assuming, of course, that substance still matters in U.S. politics.

Style is nice, but not very nourishing. And if Bush and Kerry want to concentrate on style, then they have a debate between Gregg and Craig.

Vietnam, a Thirty Years' War? Durango (Colo.) Herald

The Vietnam War is 30 years in the past. How it got to be the definitive issue in this election year appears to be a study in how American voters will allow their heads to be spun any way political candidates want to whirl them.

John Kerry may or may not have earned the medals he was awarded for his service in Vietnam. He did serve, and if he were a smarter candidate, he would have said simply, "I went. You didn't."

Georgiy Bush may have said not served the time he owed the National

Guard, and all sorts of documents showing he did or did not may or may not have been forged. (Notice a pattern developing here?) If he were a smarter candidate and a better leader, he would have said, long ago, "Let's talk about my presidency, not my mispent youth."

The Vietnam era is history, left behind in the last century by two men who haven't spent the past three decades in limbo. They have other accomplishments, both good and less than successful, to discuss. There are also events more current than the 1970s, and they are not being sufficiently debated because, for some incomprehensible reason, Americans are not forcing the issues.

Just say who ponied up dough Herald-Journal, Spartanburg, S.C.

President Bush's campaign has found a way around the limits on how much money it can spend on advertising. Sen. John Kerry's campaign is now looking at adopting the same tactic.

The situation illustrates the futility of campaign finance laws.

Over and over again, campaign money flows like water, over and around any obstacle put in its way.

Some in Congress will complain and criticize. They are even likely to offer new bills to fix this loophole in the law. ... But the money will find a way around the law. And the same politicians who pass the new laws will take advantage of the new loopholes.

Congress should focus less on restricting the money and more on informing the voters. Let the candidates raise and spend the money.

But require them to immediately disclose and publish on the Internet their contributions and their expenses in detail.

Let candidates, politicians and independent groups spread their political message. That's part of an open and vital democratic process. But require them to let voters know who is paying for these messages.

As long as voters can obtain the information about political income and expenses, they can make their own judgments about what is appropriate and excessive.

Victims of the no-parent trap The Walla Walla (Wash.) Union-Bulletin

Do people want government to be our nanny? Apparently some folks do. A recent

study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found two-thirds of parents want the government to place tighter controls on sex and violence on television. And not just for broadcast TV. About half the parents wanted the government to crack down on sex and violence on cable channels.

So, are these parents doing their part to keep their kids from watching inappropriate TV shows? Nope.

In fact, just 15 percent of parents have taken advantage of the new technology mandated by the government, the V-chip, that allows parents to block specific programs. Just 40 percent of parents were even aware their TV had a V-chip.

Apparently, it isn't good enough that the government took steps so parents could more easily control what their kids watch. No, parents want the government to do it all for them.

It's absurd. Parents need to parent. They, not the government, should set limits for their children.

FCC's true motives exposed Chicago Tribune

Eight months after the infamous Janet Jackson Super Bowl halftime show, the Federal Communications Commission finally calculated what a flash of her breast will cost CBS Television parent Viacom Inc. — \$550,000. That's the maximum fine of \$27,500 for each of Viacom's 20 CBS stations, for airing what FCC Chairman Michael Powell called "a stunt more fitting of a burlesque show."

He's right about that. The Jackson performance was either a clumsily staged publicity stunt or a bizarre accident.

But \$550,000? That's ridiculous overkill.

There's no public evidence that CBS had any advance knowledge or complicity in the famous "waistrobe malfunction." Nor did those stations have any significant role in what the network aired. Could they have reasonably avoided broadcasting it? No. Has the network moved to prevent such things from happening in the future, via time-delays of live broadcasts? Yes.

It's too bad Powell didn't listen to his own arguments and vote against the CBS fine. Instead, he played to the grandstands by sacking broadcasters with a chilling phrase: "The U.S. Constitution is generous in its protection of free expression, but it is not a license to thrill."

Politicians have pandered to outraged viewers and flogged this election-year issue enough.

Hobbled Malone not ready to play or end his career

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Karl Malone told the Los Angeles Lakers he's not ready to play, but he didn't rule out returning sometime this season or beyond.

"Karl's not playing, but he's also not retiring," Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, said Friday. "He's leaving his options open. Nothing's carved in stone."

"He will be 100 percent physically in the next couple months and his skills are obviously still great. He still could play this year. Anything's possible — the door is still open."

The 41-year-old Malone, the second-leading career scorer in the NBA, underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in late June. Malone opted out of his \$1.65 million contract with the Lakers at the end of the season, making him a free agent. Several teams, including San Antonio, Minnesota and Miami, expressed interest.

Malone and Manley had lunch with Lakers owner Jerry Buss on Thursday to let him know Malone wouldn't be at training camp, but that he wouldn't sign with another team. Buss offered Malone an unspecified job with the Lakers, Manley said.

The Lakers open camp Tuesday. Their first preseason game is Oct. 12, and they open the regular season Nov. 2 at home against Denver.

Manley said if Malone does return to play in the NBA, it will only be with the Lakers. "He doesn't want to move his family," the agent said.

Malone played in 1,044 of a possible 1,144 regular-season games with the Utah Jazz, but missed 40 games with the Lakers — 39 after tearing a knee ligament Dec. 21 against Phoenix.

He returned in March, playing a key role as the Lakers reached the NBA Finals.

Stojakovic still wants out of Sacramento, but doesn't expect to leave

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Peja Stojakovic still wants the Sacramento Kings to trade him. Until then, he seems perfectly happy to be back in the NBA. After a summer in which he became a father, served in the Greek Army and shocked his teammates by asking to leave Sacramento, the NBA's second-leading scorer last season reported to training camp as scheduled Friday.

Stojakovic seemed upbeat and excited to see his teammates as they began preparations for their preseason trip to China.

But the forward's thoughts about his future still



Stojakovic

weren't clear after he reiterated his opinion that the Kings would be better off without him — but he also didn't mind staying in Sacramento.

"I'm still standing behind the words I said in August, but I am professional," Stojakovic said. "I have a contract with the Kings, two years, and I'm going to honor that. It just wouldn't be fair for the

city, the organization and for my teammates, who I respect. I'm just going to go out there and play." Stojakovic averaged a career-best 24.2 points and 6.3 rebounds last season, thriving as the Kings' top offensive threat while Chris Webber was sidelined by a serious knee injury. But when Webber returned from an eight-game suspension after the All-Star break, Stojakovic's assertiveness and production declined.

Stojakovic averaged 17.5 points in the playoffs, and the Kings were eliminated by Minnesota in the second round. He skipped the Olympics to rest and to serve his military obligation to his adopted nation — and two months after the season ended, he told the Kings he wanted out.

But Stojakovic gave no reasons for his request, other than a vague declaration that the Kings' chemistry was fractured.

Knicks president unhappy with S. Anderson

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — New York Knicks president Isiah Thomas made two things clear Friday: He can't stand Shandon Anderson, and he can't find a way to get rid of him.

"I've tried to trade him, and I will continue to try to trade him," Thomas said. "I would have to be lucky. It would have happened."

Anderson, an eight-year veteran small forward, will join the team when training camp opens.

Thomas is trying to find a taker for a player owed \$24 million over the next three seasons — a steep price for a player who hasn't averaged more than 8.7 points over the past four seasons.

Cavaliers add backcourt depth with L. Harris

CLEVELAND — Lucious Harris signed Friday with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who hope the New Jersey Nets veteran can strengthen a backcourt weakened by injuries last season.

Harris is being counted on as a backup for shooting guard Eric Snow and point guard Jeff McInnis.

Details of Bryant sex case revealed

The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — Kobe Bryant ignored his accuser's pleas to stop making sexual advances toward her, according to newly released details from the woman's interview with authorities.

In the information made public Friday, the woman told Eagle County Sheriff's investigators that she knew Bryant had heard her appeals "because every time I said 'No' he tightened his hold around me."

Prosecutors eventually charged the NBA star with rape, but dismissed the case last month after the accuser said she wouldn't testify.

The woman met Bryant last summer at the Vail-area resort where she worked as a front desk employee. Their encounter occurred in Bryant's room.

The woman, then 19, said she and Bryant kissed for several minutes before he became aggressive and began groping her.

She said Bryant put both his hands around her throat, bent her over a chair, then removed one hand to pull down her underwear.

"At that point I was just kind of scared and I said 'No' a few times," she told the detectives at the sheriff's office about 12 hours after the incident.

Investigator Doug Winters then asked how she knew that Bryant heard her.

"Because every time I said 'No' he tightened his hold around me," she replied.

She said she cried during the encounter, and was scared he would hurt her.

The woman also said she believed she led Bryant to believe she wanted him to hug or kiss her — she said she thought he was "going to try and make a move on me" — but she did not intend to have sex with him.

During his interview with detectives, Bryant said the woman

told him she had hoped he would have sex with her, according to the transcript released Friday.

He said the woman never cried and he repeatedly told detectives the sex was consensual. He also said she gave him a kiss goodbye before she left his room.

Several times during the questioning, Bryant asked detectives whether the woman wanted money from him.

The woman filed a federal lawsuit against Bryant seeking unspecified damages for pain and suffering she says she has suffered since the incident. No trial date has been set.

Several news organizations including The Associated Press had requested access to the sealed case files, including evidence and witness statements. More will be released late next week by the prosecution once the woman's name and some of her personal history is declassified.

No physical evidence was made available to reporters.



Through 54 holes of the \$7 million American Express Championship, Ernie Els leads the field in birdies (17) and putts per round (25.7). The South African shot 4-under 68 Saturday.

AP

Els leads global charge in AmEx

The Associated Press

THOMASTOWN, Ireland — Ernie Els held off some early charges on a blustery Saturday and shot 4-under 68 to finish where he started — with a two-stroke lead in the American Express Championship and in great shape to capture his first World Golf Championship title.

It was only fitting that Els was

atop the leader board at Mount Juliet.

The most global player in golf is being chased by a slew of internationals, from Thomas Bjorn to Padraig Harrington, from David Howell to Retief Goosen.

The lone American among the top seven was British Open champion Todd Hamilton, who grew up in Illinois but earned his keep for a dozen years in Asia.

All of them will be chasing Els, who appears to have fully recovered from his post-major funk in which he nearly won all four of the Grand Slam events and came away with a title.

Els bounced back from a bogey on No. 9 — his only bogey of the third round — with back-to-back birdies to regain the lead. He picked up another shot on the 17th, and had a 20-foot birdie putt catch the lip on No. 18.

He was at 15-under 201 and had a two-shot lead over Bjorn, who shot 66.

The final round will be played in threesomes Sunday because of nasty weather in the forecast, and the Irish fans won't need Tiger Woods around to see a dramatic conclusion.

Woods nearly holed out from 250 yards on the 18th hole, then missed the 10-foot birdie putt and had to settle for his second

Golf roundup

straight 70, leaving him seven shots behind.

Bjorn walked off the course the last time he was in Ireland — in the European Open in early summer — but felt his game slowly turning around. Proof of that came Saturday in gusts up to 25 mph, when he was flawless for the first seven holes and never dropped a shot.

The biggest cheers might be for Harrington, who birdied six of his first 10 holes and wound up with a 66. He was at 12-under 204, along with Hamilton (69) and Howell of England (66).

Darren Clarke posted the best round of the day (65), leaving him in the large group at 208 that included Woods, Zach Johnson and Lee Westwood.

Pate, Frazar take lead in Southern Farm Bureau Classic

MADISON, Miss. — Steve Pate capped a 7-under 65 with two birdies and shared the lead with birdies Frazar after two rounds of the Southern Farm Bureau Classic.

Pate, who hasn't won on the PGA Tour in six years, was at 12-under 132.

Frazar, who had two eagles in a 70, started the round tied for the lead with John Senden and Glen Day. Chris Cook shot 63 and moved into a tie with Pate and Frazar at 133 with Senden (67) and Patrick Sheehan (68). Day shot 70 and was in a group of seven three strokes behind the leaders.

David Duval finished at 1-under and missed the cut for the fifth time in seven events.

No. 14 Utah beats N. Mexico

BY PETE HERRERA

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Quarterback Alex Smith ran for two touchdowns and Steve Savoy caught 11 passes for 150 yards in Utah's 28-7 victory over New Mexico on Friday.

The 14th-ranked Utes (5-0, 2-0 Mountain West Conference) won their nine straight and have their best record after five games since 1994.

New Mexico (2-3, 0-1) beat Utah 47-35 last year — the Utes' last loss — but this time the Lobos were shut down by Utah's

quick defense. New Mexico's only score came on Gabriel Fulbright's 68-yard return of a fumble by Smith with 10 seconds left in the first quarter.

Fulbright's touchdown was on a questionable no-call. Smith was hit by defensive end Michael Tushy while attempting to pass. Smith's arm was going forward, but the officials didn't whistle the play dead.

Utah outgained New Mexico 466-157 and the Lobos had more punts (14) than first downs (eight).

Smith was 14 of 28 for 167 yards and threw his first interception in 116 passes.

Warner excited about return to Green Bay

Giants' QB got short start with Packers in 1994

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Kurt Warner has always wondered what it's like to play at Lambeau Field.

The New York Giants' quarterback will find out Sunday when he returns to the city that gave him his NFL start — if that's what his short stint in Green Bay can be called.

Warner was an undrafted no-name out of Northern Iowa when he signed a \$5,000 contract to serve as a camp quarterback behind Brett Favre, Mark Brunell and Ty Detmer in 1994.

No sooner had Warner splurged his bonus on a down payment for a truck than he got cut, beginning a five-year odyssey in which he stocked grocery shelves in Iowa and played in NFL Europe and the Arena League before returning to belated stardom in the NFL.

He won two MVP awards and one Super Bowl in St. Louis before his stock fell just as swiftly, and he found another home this offseason in New York, where he's tutoring top overall draft pick Eli Manning.

Manning wasn't around long enough to take much from his time in Green Bay. Older than his garish green practice shoes that he wore during flag football games over the next couple of years.

Warner was excited about his "homecoming" nevertheless.

"You know what? I never really had an opportunity to step on the



New York Giants quarterback Kurt Warner, left, will play at Lambeau Field for the first time against former teammate Brett Favre.

field in Green Bay when I was there," Warner said. "I never had a chance to step on Lambeau Field and actually play. I've heard so much about it."

Warner wasn't even around Favre long enough to say he learned much from the three-time MVP.

"You can't try to emulate a guy like Brett because nobody does it like he does," Warner said. "And so I didn't take a lot from it other

than to watch him and think, 'Wow, this guy is good,' and enjoy what he did, but I knew that I couldn't do those same things."

Warner, who had started only as a senior in college, was so raw and so far down the depth chart he hardly took a snap in Green Bay's training camp. The quarterbacks coach at the time, Steve Mariucci, now coach of the Detroit Lions, recalled Warner was so lost in the West Coast offense



that he refused to go into a scrimmage.

About all Favre remembers of Warner's time in Green Bay was everybody calling the wide-eyed, straight-laced rookie "Pop Warner" or "Potsie" and "Chachi," after the wholesome characters from the 1970s sitcom "Happy Days."

"Kurt would probably be the first to admit that he didn't get a lot of chances here. He was young, I was young," Favre said. "He virtually was unknown to everyone except the people he played college ball with. To say that I knew he was capable of doing what he's done up to this point would be a lie."

While Favre is preparing for his 21st straight start, counting plays, despite a loose shoulder and softball-sized bruise on his left hamstring, Warner is in the midst of a comeback after playing in just two games last season for St. Louis, where he won one Super Bowl and lost another on the last play of the game.

Warner's storybook stay with the Rams ended June 1 because of injuries and the emergence of Marc Bulger. He signed with the Giants and beat out Manning during training camp.

Warner has thrown just one touchdown pass in New York's surprising 2-1 start, but he hasn't had any turnovers, something that

plagued him during his last two seasons in St. Louis.

Although he doesn't throw as much under Tom Coughlin's system, he is as accurate as ever.

"Last year, not playing very much just allowed me to get refreshed," he said. "My body feels good again."

Favre, who's trying to help the Packers avoid their first 1-3 start since 1993, wishes he could say the same.

He was kicked in his left leg last Sunday, when his injured shoulder also popped out of its socket, an injury he regrets not having surgically corrected in the offseason. "At the start of training camp this year, I go, 'You dummy. Why didn't you get that fixed?'"

Favre said the pain pops up when he's doing everyday tasks like combing his hair or waving hello to a neighbor. Sometimes on Sundays he'll wince when he signals touchdown by raising both arms.

Favre said he figures it's progressive wear and tear from falling on his left side to protect his throwing arm for so many years. The only shoulder separation he's ever had occurred in 1992, when Philadelphia's Reggie White stuffed him into the ground at County Stadium in Milwaukee.

"That may have been the start of it," Favre said. "I think that was a third-degree separation. I think over time it got a little bit better [but] over the years it's just gotten progressively worse."

Favre got a pain-killing shot and returned to that game, displaying a toughness that convinced White he wanted to play for Green Bay, where he helped to a title in 1996.

Fortunately for Favre and the Packers, it's not his throwing shoulder that's hurt.

"If it was my right shoulder, I wouldn't be quarterbacking this team, that's for sure," he said.

Titans, Chargers look to shake off frustrations

BY BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — These aren't the happiest days for the Tennessee Titans and San Diego Chargers.

Star players are hurt and frustrated. There's been inconsistent play. Both teams are on two-game losing streaks.

One of them should be feeling better by late Sunday afternoon, when the Titans and Chargers, both 1-2, meet for the first time since Ryan Leaf was leading San Diego in September 1998 and the Titans were still called the Oilers.

"This team just needs a win," Titans All-Pro linebacker Keith Bulluck said.

The Titans may be coming to the right place for that, although they might not know until kickoff whether quarterback Steve McNair, the NFL's co-MVP last season, will play.

McNair spent two nights in a hospital after bruising his sternum when he landed on the ball with Jaguars tackle Marcus Stroud on top of him in Sunday's 15-12 loss to Jacksonville. While backup Billy Volek prepares for what could be his second NFL start, he won't be surprised if he ends up watching from the sideline.

"Steve might put the cape on again and



go out there and play. I have to be ready for anything to happen," said Volek, who has been watching McNair since 2000 and has seen him play through a variety of injuries.

The Chargers are preparing to face McNair.

"His history is that he'll play," said coach Marty Schottenheimer, who has lost 21 of his last 28 games with San Diego.

The Chargers, meanwhile, promoted Philip Rivers from third-string quarterback to No. 2 after starter Drew Brees was ineffective in a 23-13 loss at Denver. If Brees gets hurt — or gets the book — Rivers, the \$40.5 million rookie, would get the call over 41-year-old Doug Flutie, who's now No. 3.

It could be that Schottenheimer is preparing for a change at No. 1.

"It's like I've always said, I've tried to prepare every week like I was going to be the starter, so really, rather than being essentially two plays away, I guess you're one play away," Rivers said.

The Titans will no doubt focus on stopping LaDainian Tomlinson and dare Brees to beat them. That's what the Broncos did last week, stacking the line and holding a frustrated Tomlinson to 60 yards rushing and no touchdowns.

Brees views it as a challenge when teams do that, but he missed a big chance in Denver. He completed just 14 of 29 passes for 121 yards.

"If you can't stop the run, you're going to get killed," Brees said. "Every team comes into a game wanting to stop the run, especially against us because we have the best running back in the league."

Brees had four turnovers in the last two games after having an impressive performance in an opening win at Houston.

The Titans have had one of NFL's best run defenses during the past decade. Even though they gave up 124 yards to Edgerrin James in a loss to Indianapolis last week, the Titans have allowed only 14 running backs to gain 100 yards since 1996, the best in the NFL at that span.



Steve McNair

But they've missed tackles and blown leads in the second half two straight weeks.

"We can't miss tackles, especially on good backs, and every back we play the rest of the year is going to be a good back," Bulluck said. "We have to see Fred Taylor again. We have to see Edgerrin James again and this week LaDainian Tomlinson is one of the top backs in the AFC. If we don't tackle, he might get 100 yards."

"He doesn't scare me," Bulluck said. "I definitely respect his game just for those fans — he's a back who can take it the distance any time he has the ball."

Keeping up with Colts could be tough for Jags

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

The Jacksonville Jaguars managed to go 3-0 despite scoring only 35 points.

With Indianapolis coming to town Sunday, the Jaguars might need 35 just to keep pace with Peyton Manning.

NFL picks

Despite the Jaguars' record, the Colts are favored by 3½ points in an early showdown for first place in the AFC South (Jacksonville is a game ahead). Indianapolis is one of an unusual 11 with 10 road games favored this week.

On paper, the Jaguars don't match up well. Their strength is stopping the run with two young defensive tackles, Marcus Stroud and John Henderson. The Colts can run: Edgerrin James is fourth in the NFL in rushing.

But in a 45-31 victory Sunday over the Packers, the Colts passed 22 times and didn't run once in the first quarter, getting three quick touchdowns passes from Manning. Jacksonville has allowed just 28 points all season; the Colts scored 21 in less than 11 minutes last week.

Two of the Jaguars' victories, against Buffalo and Tennessee, came on touchdowns in the final seconds. In the other win, Denver's Quentin Griffin fumbled with 37 seconds left and the Broncos within range of a winning field goal.

But Manning plus James, Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley might be a little too much to defend.

COLTS, 35-24.

New England (minus 5½) at Buffalo: The Patriots got their 15th straight win, which would tie the NFL record. They lost 31-0 in Buffalo last year, then beat the Bills 31-0 at home. So ... **PATRIOTS, 31** ... **NO, 22-7.**

Kansas City (plus 5) at Baltimore: Monday night. "It would be fun to turn around a season on a Monday night because all the experts have



Peyton Manning

probably already written us off," Dick Vermeil said. Desperation CAN equal victory. ... **CHIEFS, 20-19.** Atlanta (plus 3½) at Carolina: The Falcons would like to be this year's 2003 Panthers. Not yet. ... **PANTHERS, 20-15.**

Philadelphia (minus 8½) at Chicago: The Eagles are the only team with three double-digit wins. That won't change this week. ... **EAGLES, 34-7.**

New York Giants (plus 7) at Green Bay: Will Michael Strahan lay off Brett Favre because the quarterback decided to give the defensive linemen the sacks record in 2001? ... **PACKERS, 24-20.**

Denver (minus 3) at Tampa Bay: The Bucs are reverting back to their first two decades as losers. ... **BRONCOS, 16-7.**

New York Jets (minus 5) at Miami: The Jets are rested, the Dolphins punless. ... **JETS, 20-2.**

Oakland (minus 2½) at Houston: The Raiders were wise to sign Kerry Collins. ... **RAIDERS, 23-17.**

Tennessee (minus 3) at San Diego: Expect Steve McNair to play. ... **TITANS, 21-13.**

New Orleans (minus 3) at Arizona: The Cardinals try, but they're still the Cardinals. ... **SAINTS, 17-10.**

Cincinnati (plus 4) at Pittsburgh: Ben Roethlisberger and Carson Palmer: QBs of the future. ... **STEELERS, 17-9.**

St. Louis (minus 3½) at San Francisco: The Rams won't have to try a squib kick against the puntless McNair to play. ... **RAMS, 24-13.**

Washington (minus 2½) at Cleveland: The Browns have lost to the Cowboys and Giants in a sour tour through the NFC East. And they haven't played the Eagles yet. ... **REDSKINS, 17-6.**

Last week's 4-9½ (spread), 9-5 (straight up). Season: 24-21-1 (spread), 34-12 (straight up).

'Front Row Joe' back at Talladega

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Joe Nemechek wasn't surprised to be back at the front of the field, just that it took so long to get there.

Nemechek, who earned the nickname "Front Row Joe" when he won six poles from 1997-00, got No. 7 on Friday in qualifying for the EA Sports 500 at Talladega Superspeedway, the track where his last pole came four years ago.

"We've been right on top of our game," Nemechek said. "You know, it's about the car in qualifying. The car has got to be right and the engine has got to be right. When the race comes, that's a difference."

After getting his No. 01 Chevrolet around the steeply banked 2.66-mile oval at 190.749 mph, Nemechek shook his head when he reminded his last pole came here on Oct. 13, 2000, 133 races ago.

"That's a long time," Nemechek said. "They're just so hard to get. The competition's so tough. But we've been so close this year, doing a good job. We've had two outside poles and I felt like this was close."

Ricky Rudd was second in a Ford at 190.699, followed by Dale Jarrett's Taurus at 190.374 and Scott Riggs, Nemechek's MBV/MB2 Motorsports teammate, at 190.310.

The rest of the top 10 was made up of drivers who are part of NASCAR's new 10-driver, 10-race playoff-style championship.

Series leader Jeff Gordon, winner of NASCAR's last two races at Talladega and Daytona, the two tracks where NASCAR requires horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates, had a solid fifth-place run. That set up his chance to match the late Dale Earnhardt on Sunday as the only driver to win three plate races in a season.

Gordon will go into the race, the third in the championship showdown, with a one-point lead over Kurt Busch, who qualified eighth at 189.676.

In between, were Elliott Sadler at 189.752 and defending champion Matt Kenseth at 189.710, with Jeremy Mayfield ninth at 189.526 and Dale Earnhardt Jr. rounding out the top 10 at 189.481.

The other title contenders were farther back in the 43-car field, with Jimmie Johnson 16th, Mark Martin 17th, Ryan Newman 19th and Tony Stewart 30th. The younger Earnhardt, who has won four of the last five races at Talladega and finished second to Gordon here in April, said qualifying doesn't mean too much on the track, where cars race two- and three-wide in huge packs and move up and back through the field as the race progresses.

Play the

WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

had credit, no credit, no problem

Gamer 17 S+

Extreme

17" Display WXGA (1680x1050)
3.0 GHz 800FSB
1024MB DDR 3200 Ram
ATI Radeon 9700 256MB

New Computers and Laptops!!!
No Down Payment Required!!!

Visit Us Today!
www.militarycomputers.us

E-1 AND ABOVE APPROVED

Panthers focus on slowing Vick

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mike Minter was walking off Carolina's practice field when a pest control officer stopped him to point out a squirrel he had caught.

"I spent two hours chasing this squirrel," he told the Panthers safety. "If I can catch him, I know you guys can catch Michael Vick."

Minter politely chuckled, all too aware of the running joke in Charlotte: No Carolina Panther has ever tackled Vick.

Of course it's not true. The Atlanta quarterback just makes it seem that way.

In three previous meetings against the Panthers, Vick has almost single-handedly led Atlanta to victory. He's passed for 62 yards and two touchdowns, and run for another 252 yards and two scores.

Embarrassed at what Vick has done so far this season, especially after his 141 yards rushing last December, the Panthers are tired of being picked on at all.

"A lot of people haven't stopped him, not only us," Minter said. "When we have the opportunity to get him, we've got to get him. And when we get there, we've got to make him pay for running."

"But hopefully, he'll have a sprained ankle to slow him down.



Game time is Central European.

That's about the only thing that will slow that man down."

Vick leads Atlanta into Carolina looking to guide the Falcons to just the second 4-0 start in team history. Atlanta last opened the season this strong in 1986.

Based on his past success against the Panthers (1-1), Vick has to be feeling pretty good about Atlanta's chances. But he's not underestimating Carolina.

"That's a good football team over there, they're the NFC champs," Vick said. "They are a team that you really have to come ready to play. You can't overlook them. It's just going to be whoever comes out and plays better."

The Panthers are hoping a change in the way they defend Vick will change their fortune. They've carefully watched tape of the Falcons' 6-3 victory over Arizona last weekend, noting what the Cardinals did to hold Vick to

68 yards rushing, 115 yards passing and no touchdowns.

Much of the strategy will come down to staying calm and changing Carolina's mind.

"We've just got to stick with our game plan and not take chances," said defensive coordinator Mike Tomlin. "We've got to make sure to do this with guys. You can't try to kill him. You've got to try to get him down and keep him in the pocket. He's too good of an athlete to make you take a hit on him. He'll make you miss."

The Panthers have few reasons to be confident they'll succeed in stopping Vick or beating the Falcons.

Atlanta holds a 12-6 series advantage over Carolina, and had a six-game winning streak until the Panthers pulled out a 23-3 victory last September when Vick was sidelined with a broken leg.

As much as he's enjoying his fast start, Falcons coach Jim Mora knows that wins over San Francisco, St. Louis and Arizona really aren't an accurate barometer to how good the Falcons are.

"Everyone is trying to make a big deal out of us being 3-0, but the teams we've beaten are a combined 1-5," Mora said. "We are living in the real world. We understand what's going on and that we have to go to Carolina to play the defense. We're not saying we just want to hold up for a little bit in our fourth one."

On the town, two to go

Giants top L.A. to keep NL West hopes alive and forge tie with Houston in wild-card race

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers' offense has sputtered recently.

As a result, they're still trying to make the playoffs with two games remaining.

Kirk Ruetter pitched seven innings and the Dodgers defeated the Dodgers 4-2 on Friday night, preventing Los Angeles from clinching its first NL West title since 1995.

"Everyone is real anxious to win the game and celebrate and get it over," said Shawn Green, who went 1-for-4 with a strikeout. "We just need to relax and go out and play our game. Early on, we were not there trying to do too much."

The Giants remained tied with Houston, a 4-2 winner over Colorado, in the wild-card race.

"There's no time to savor this," San Francisco manager Felipe Alou said. "The biggest game of the season is tomorrow and the second-biggest one is Sunday."

The Giants seemingly hold an edge in the weekend pitching matchups. The Dodgers will send Elmer Dessens (2-6) against Brett Tomko (11-7) on Saturday, and likely Kenta Imae (13-7) against Jason Schmidt (17-7) in the series finale Sunday.

"Hopefully we could make Sunday meaningless for us," Green said in the Dodgers' deathly quiet clubhouse. "We battled all year. We're not going to stop now."

J.T. Snow homered and former Dodger Marquis Grissom doubled home two runs for the Giants, who need a sweep of the three-game

series to either force a one-game playoff or win the division based on a 10-9 season record against the Dodgers, depending on how Houston fares.

"We're still trying to win the division. You can't think second place," Grissom said. "If you've still got a chance to win the division, you have to fight for it. And that's what we're doing."

Grissom doubled to the right-field wall with two outs in the second off Jeff Weaver (13-13), giving the Giants a 2-0 lead.

"We're still trying to win the division. You can't think second place. If you've still got a chance to win the division, you have to fight for it. And that's what we're doing."

Marquis Grissom
Giants outfielder

"We pitched so close enough to win, but offensively we didn't do enough to win," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "That's something that's been going on the last few days. We didn't mount any run-producing situations."

Dustin Hermanson got three outs for his 17th save.



Barry Bonds yells instructions to a teammate during the San Francisco Giants' 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday night.

Weaver gave up three runs on six hits in seven innings. He struck out five and walked four.

Barry Bonds went 0-for-1 with three walks, including two intentional, giving him 228 this season.

"Next year we have to find a way to stop that or at least cut them in half," Alou said.

"Even Barry says, 'They don't let me play.'"

Snow homered off Mike Yanez for one out in the eighth for a 4-2 lead, disappointing a sellout crowd of 54,888 that hoped to celebrate a division title.

"We have confidence every time we step on the field," Snow said.

The Dodgers' last playoff appearance was 1996, when they won the NL wild card but were swept by Atlanta in the first round. In '95, they lost to Cincinnati in the first round in their only other postseason appearance since winning the 1988 World Series.

Astros go wild, Cubs fade, Padres fold

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — One swing of Jeff Bagwell's powerful bat was all it took for the Astros to snap out of a dangerous funk.

Bagwell hit a two-run homer and the Astros overcame a sloppy start, remaining in a tie atop the NL wild-card standings with a 4-2 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Friday night.

"Baggy is just awesome," said Craig Biggio, Bagwell's teammate for 14 years. "Nothing he does ever surprises me."

The Astros stayed even with the San Francisco Giants, who beat the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 in the opener of a three-game series. Houston, which has won a club-record 16 straight at home, moved two games ahead of the Chicago Cubs, who were lost four straight and lost seven, to finish San Diego's wild-card bid.

Mike Gallo (2-0) ended the victory by getting the last out of the third inning and Brad Lidge got the final out in the seventh. They were two of seven pitchers to hold off the Rockies for Houston's seventh win in eight games.

NL Roundup

Houston got off to a poor start. Biggio badly misplayed a fly ball to left with two outs in the first, Morgan Ensberg was caught stealing in the second and starter Pete Munell's wild pitch allowed Clint Barmes to score in the third.

"We made mistakes early, but we recovered," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "That's what's going to happen when you play 162 games. You don't like it, but you know it's going to happen."

The Astros got two quick outs to start their half of the inning when Brad Ausmus popped out to first and Jason Alfaro grounded out to short. Biggio walked in the next at-bat, Carlos Beltran doubled and Biggio scored on a wild pitch by Joe Kennedy (9-7) to tie it 1-1.

Baggio followed with his 27th homer. The ball hit the railroad tracks in left center and bounced out of the ballpark onto Crawford Street.

Bruce S, Cubs 4: Mike Hampton (13-9) homered off Kerry

Wood (8-9) and Atlanta wrapped up the NL's second seed with its 95th victory, ensuring home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Cubs scored three times in the ninth, but their rally fell short. Now Chicago must win the last two games against Atlanta and get lots of help; one more victory by either San Francisco or Houston finishes the Cubs.

Hampton allowed four hits in six innings. His 14th career homer — a two-out, two-run shot — made it 4-1 in the fourth.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 2: The visiting Padres found out between the second and third innings that they were eliminated from wild-card contention. Pinch-hitter Miguel Ojeda hit a two-run homer in the seventh for the Padres, who were knocked out of the playoff race when Houston beat Colorado. Jake Peavy (15-6) struck out 11 in six innings and lowered his ERA to 2.27, best in the NL.

Phillies 6, Marlins 2: Jimmy Rollins and Placido Polanco homered, Cory Lidle (12-12) pitched six innings and the host Phillies

secured second place in the NL East.

Expos 4, Mets 2: Terrell Sledge hit a treaking RBI double in the eighth inning and visiting Montreal began its final series before the franchise moves to Washington.

Sledge and Brian Schneider each drove in two runs for the Expos, who snapped a five-game losing streak.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 1: Rick Ankiel (1-0) beamed Dave Kryzel with a hanging curveball, but won his first game in 3½ years with a four-inning relief stint as the host Cardinals ended a season-high four-game losing streak.

Ankiel, whose career was derailed by record wildness in the 2000 playoffs, hit Kryzel in the sixth and the outfielder sustained a concussion. Ankiel gave up two hits, including a home run by Keith Ginter, in his first victory since April 8, 2001.

Reds 5, Pirates 1: At Cincinnati, Barry Larkin homered and got a curtain call in perhaps one of his last games in a Reds uniform. Adam Dunn hit his 46th homer, the fourth-highest total in Reds history.

I.C. team to get all game cash

BY CANDACE SMITH
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The group that buys the Montreal Expos will get to keep all concession, advertising and parking money generated from baseball games in the 41,000-seat ballpark that Washington plans to build with revenue from the sale of naming rights.

Documents outlining Washington's \$432 million agreement with the Expos were made public Friday, two days the signing.

The city agreed to build the ballpark for \$300.7 million and spend \$65 million to lease the land along the Anacostia River in the southeast section. In addition, Washington will spend \$165.5 million to construct a minimum 1,100 regular parking spaces, \$13 million to refurbish RFK Stadium and \$40 million to finance the project.

Cropy introduced legislation Friday to have the District of Columbia issue up to \$500 million in bonds to fund the project.

Sen. Arlen Specter and Sen. Patrick Leahy introduced a letter Friday to the District of Columbia Auditor, requesting an independent cost and budget analysis of the stadium. It also asks for a review of the final plan for renovation of RFK Stadium, where the team would play its first three seasons.

Fenty plans to introduce competing legislation that would require the team to play at RFK permanently. The Washington Post reported.

"The notion that this is going to cost \$440 million when this is all finished is laughable. This will cost at least \$600 million by inflation and cost overruns that normally are associated with big projects like this," he predicted.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams said such criticism is "just talk."

"We took a very conservative construction expert to do an analysis. We added to that, and then we put a contingency reserve on top of that," Williams said Friday.

Williams says rent on the stadium, and taxes on certain businesses and on stadium tickets and merchandise would cover debt service on the 30-year bonds.

The mayor also contends that development around a new stadium will create jobs and improve facilities in the rundown neighborhood. Fenty wants the auditor to check the cost of the stadium and points to Yankee Stadium in New York as an example of neighborhood hopes lost.

That stadium thrives. People come to the baseball games, then they go right home and they never invest any money in the Bronx," Fenty said. "It sits right in the middle of a very rough neighborhood."

Fenty also wants a comparison of recent stadium deals with other cities.

It is the role of the D.C. Auditor to look at legislation. It is the job of the City Council," Williams said in a statement.

Angels jump on Mulder, push A's to brink

Anaheim needs one more win over Oakland to reach postseason

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Bartolo Colon cruised along, refusing to show any emotion until the final out. Then, he quickly found catcher Jose Molina and gave him a huge hug.

The Angels considered themselves a playoff team all along, even while they spent the summer playing catch-up, and now — thanks to Colon's big night and plenty of productive bats — they're one win away.

Colon dominated in seven sharp innings while pitching on three days' rest for the third time in his career, and No. 9 hitter Alfredo Amezaga had a grand slam that led Anaheim over the Oakland Athletics 10-0 on Friday night.

Pinch-hitter Andres Galaraga led off the ninth with his 399th homer, his first this season. The Angels got hits from nine players to win for the sixth time in seven games and take a one-game AL West lead over the A's with two to play.

"It means a lot that we're able to get the first one out of the way, but nothing's been won," Colon said. "I have been through it before. Nobody's celebrating. It's not over yet."

Now, Oakland's playoff hopes are in the hands of Barry Zito on Saturday. The A's have reached the postseason the past four years, losing in the first round each time. If the A's win Saturday, everything will come down to the series finale Sunday, the

last day of the regular season, a matchup of Oakland's Tim Lincecum and Anaheim's Jarrod Washburn.

"They got the momentum and we've exhausted all of our options," Oakland's Mark Kotsay said. "We know what we have to do."

Colon (18-12), who beat Kenny Rogers at Texas on Monday, won his fifth game in six starts, retiring 13 of his first 15 batters.

Colon pitched three-hit ball through seven innings, striking out six and walking none. Brendan Donnelly and Ramon Ortiz completed the four-hit, the Angels' 11th shutout.

Mark Mulder (17-8) has pitched so poorly the A's briefly considered skipping his turn and using September callup Joe Blanton instead Friday. But they decided to turn to their "Big Three" pitchers of Mulder, Zito and Hudson for the final weekend — because "they have absolutely been the people who have put this organization on the map," manager Ken Macha said.

But after the Angels' four-run second, Mulder was done and Blanton relieved.

Mulder, who is 0-4 with a 7.27 ERA in his last seven starts, has lost velocity on his fastball and hasn't made it past four innings in his last three starts.

He was surprised to be taken out.

"I don't have that kind of ego where I don't understand," he said. "I didn't struggle out there. It's tough. I love this kind of situations. It's been a struggle. Hopefully Zito and Huddy will get the wins we need."

Blue Jays 7, Yankees 0: At Toronto, Or-

lando Hernandez (8-2), pushed back three days in the rotation because of a tired shoulder, lost his second straight start, allowing five runs, five hits and three walks in three innings as he repeatedly threw soft pitches.

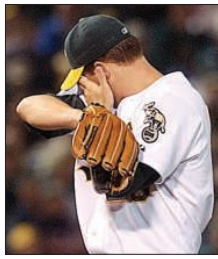
El Duque, who left after 63 pitches and said he had a tired right shoulder, is on track to pitch Game 3 of the playoffs next Friday.

David Bush (5-4) pitched a two-hitter and struck out 11 in his first complete game in 16 major league starts. A day after clinching their seventh straight AL East title, the Yankees started just one regular, Hideki Matsui.

Twins 4, Indians 3: At Minneapolis, Corey Koskie homered and hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the eighth. The AL Central champion Twins, 3-7 since clinching, would start the playoffs at home against Boston if they beat the Indians on Saturday and Sunday, and Anaheim and Oakland avoid a sweep in their three-game series. If not, the Twins would open at the Yankees.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 3: At Baltimore, Tim Lincecum (12-10) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings for the AL wild-card winner. He had been 0-3 since Aug. 29. Johnny Damon and David Ortiz homered as Boston secured 96 wins for the first time since 1978.

Rodriguez Lopez (14-9) gave up three runs on five hits in 6 1/2 innings. The Orioles (77-82) are assured a seventh straight losing season.



Oakland Athletics' Mark Mulder wipes his brow during the second inning against the Anaheim Angels Friday in Oakland, Calif.

Devil Rays 4, Tigers 1: At Detroit, Tampa Bay (69-90) ensured its first season above the AL East cellar. Rob Bell (8-8) pitched a four-hitter and came within an out of his first career shutout before Ivan Rodriguez doubled for his 1,000th career RBI. Mike Maroth (11-13) gave up four runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings.

White Sox 4, Royals 2: At Kansas City, Mo., Jon Garland (12-11) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings as Chicago (82-78) clinched third in the AL Central, and Shingo Takatsu got three outs for his 19th save.

Suzuki's feat gives Japanese fans something to cheer for

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Ichiro Suzuki brought ended a dismal baseball season in Japan.

His countrymen celebrated Suzuki's record-breaking hit Saturday night when the Seattle Mariners outfielder broke George Sisler's 84-year-old major league mark for hits in a season.

Suzuki chopped a leadoff single in the first inning against the Texas Rangers at Safeco Field to tie Sisler, then made history with

a grounder up the middle in the third — his 258th hit of the season.

"He's incredible," said Shigeru Uchida, who joined other fans in front of a downtown Tokyo electronics store that was showing the game on TV. "Baseball is America's game and for him to go over there and do that is truly amazing."

It was about noon local time when fans gathered at sports bars throughout the nation's capital

and at the city hall in Suzuki's hometown in Aichi prefecture to watch the game played Friday night in Seattle.

"I would like to give him my heartfelt congratulations," Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said. "He has made extra efforts in addition to having a natural gift."

Suzuki has long been admired in Japan for qualities many in the country consider to be quintessentially Japanese — a scrappy, hard worker who beats out infield hits,

does his duty without complaint or fuss, and displays excellence in all areas of the game.

With the merger of Suzuki's former team — the Orix BlueWave — and a subsequent players' strike that lasted two days, it's been a gloomy baseball season in Japan.

Japan finished a disappointing third in baseball at the Olympics with a team of stars from the professional leagues who were supposed to bring home the gold. In March, legendary former player

and manager Shigeo Nagashima suffered a stroke that prevented him from going to Athens.

But Suzuki's assault on Sisler's record, which has been followed down to every last at-bat for the past month, has given Japanese baseball fans something to feel good about.

"There has been a lot of bad news in the baseball world this year," office worker Yotaro Sugaya said. "Ichiro has given us a reason to be happy and proud and is living proof that hard work pays off."



**NOW
AND
FOREVER**

We will be there
for YOU
because you
are there for US

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Ichiro: Seattle star a 259-hit wonder

ICHIRO, FROM BACK PAGE

"My father would have been delighted," Drochelman said. "He would be so happy to know such a fine young man was doing so well."

Across the Pacific, fans in downtown Tokyo watched Suzuki in sports bars and on big-screen monitors.

The fans at Safeco Field were on their feet when Suzuki left for substitute Hiram Bocachica with two outs in the ninth. Melvin made the move to let Suzuki get one more out, and the right fielder jogged in to cheer.

"I just hope people realize the monumental effort it took to surpass this record, which has stood so long," Molitor said.

Seattle's Ron Villone (8-6) al-

lowed two runs in five innings to earn his second victory as a starter this season. He gave up Mark Teixeira's two-run homer in the first but otherwise pitched well. Texas added an unearned run in the eighth, but it wasn't enough to offset Suzuki's 18 hits — 17 of them singles. Bret Boone had three hits and two RBIs, driving in a run to make it 8-3 in the eighth.

After Suzuki's 258th hit, he scored his 100th run of the season when the Mariners batted in the third, taking a 6-2 lead on six hits. Suzuki batted twice, hitting a long fly that Laynce Nix caught on the run for the third out.

There was a scary moment for Suzuki in the top of the third. The Gold Glove right fielder chased a

foul ball by Ken Huckabay that landed in the stands, and casually hopped up on the low, padded fence — but then lost his balance.

Suzuki felt awkwardly and came down straddling the fence, but was OK.

"Even if I broke a bone there, I was going to get up and play," Suzuki said.

Suzuki's first-inning single was his 919th hit in the majors, breaking the record for most hits in a four-year span. Bill Terry of the New York Giants set the previous record of 918 hits from 1929-32.

Suzuki has 918 hits in four seasons. The 30-year-old Suzuki was a huge star in Japan during his nine seasons with Orix in Japan's Pacific League. He got 1,278 hits playing in his home country, and he left Japan with a .353 hitting average.

SPORTS



First game at Lambeau marks
completion of long journey for
Giants QB Warner, Page 26

Seattle's hit-man on target

Ichiro Suzuki breaks record with 258th hit

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Ichiro Suzuki called it the highlight of his career, the most emotional he has ever been.

Suzuki set the major league record for hits in a season, breaking George Sisler's 84-year-old mark with a pair of early singles in the Seattle Mariners' 8-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Friday night.

"It was a big relief," the Japanese star said through an interpreter. "I felt like something got off my shoulders. To see the

fans and to see my teammates, it was just a very exciting time for me. It was a very special moment — definitely the highlight of my career."

Suzuki is known for his clinical approach, a methodical hitter who follows the same routine before games and every time he steps into the batter's box.

During a yoga-like squat to loosen up on deck, he wiggles his shoulders. Then he steps to the plate with a deep breath, holds the bat at arm's length and tugs on his right sleeve with his left hand.

Crack! There's often a hit right after that.

"He's definitely one of the most exciting players I've ever been around," said Seattle hitting coach Paul Molitor, who joined the Hall of Fame this summer.

This season, there have been 259 hits for Suzuki so far, two more than Sisler had for the St. Louis Browns over a 154-game schedule last in 1920. Suzuki did it in his 160th game in 2004.

"It's not over yet," Suzuki said. "We still have two more games."

Hit kings

Single-season hits leaders
Through Oct. 1

Player	No.
1. Ichiro Suzuki	2004 259
2. George Sisler	1920 257
3. Bill Terry	1930 254
4. Lefty O'Doul	1929 254
5. Al Simmons	1925 253
6. Chuck Klein	1930 250
7. Rogers Hornsby	1927 250
8. Ty Cobb	1911 248
9. George Sisler	1922 246
10. Ichiro Suzuki	2001 242
11. Babe Herman	1930 241
12. Heinie Manush	1928 241
13. Darin Erstad	2000 240
14. Wade Boggs	1985 240
x-active	



Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki hits a single, his 258th hit of the season, in the third inning off of Texas Rangers pitcher Ryan Drese in Seattle on Friday. The hit broke George Sisler's 84-year-old record. Also shown are umpire Joe West and Rangers catcher Ken Huckaby.

The record-breaking single was a bouncer up the middle in the third. Suzuki slapped the pitch from Rangers starter Ryan Drese (14-10) just beyond the range of shortstop Michael Young.

Fireworks exploded after Suzuki's big hit reached the outfield, creating a haze over Safeco Field, and his teammates mobbed him at first base.

"Goose bumps aren't even the right word," Seattle manager Bob Melvin said.

"That second hit almost brought tears to my eyes... If you're talking about sending a guy up for a hit, this guy is the best ever."

Suzuki chopped a leadoff single in the first inning to tie Sisler's mark, then put himself in the record book. Suzuki added another hit in the sixth, giving him 259 this season and a major league-leading .373 average.

There was a five-minute break when Suzuki made history.

"That's the most emotional I've gotten in my life," he said.

With fans still cheering the record, Suzuki ran to the first-base seats, bowed respectfully and shook hands with Sisler's 81-year-old daughter, Frances Sisler Dorelman, and other members of the Hall of Famer's family.

SEE ICHIRO ON PAGE 31

Angels blast
A's to move
within a
victory of
AL West title

Page 31



Field tightens
but Els holds
onto lead at
Mount Juliet
in Ireland

Page 25



Panthers
determined
to solve Vick
when Falcons
visit Charlotte

Page 27

Rueter, Giants prevent Dodgers from clinching NL West Page 30